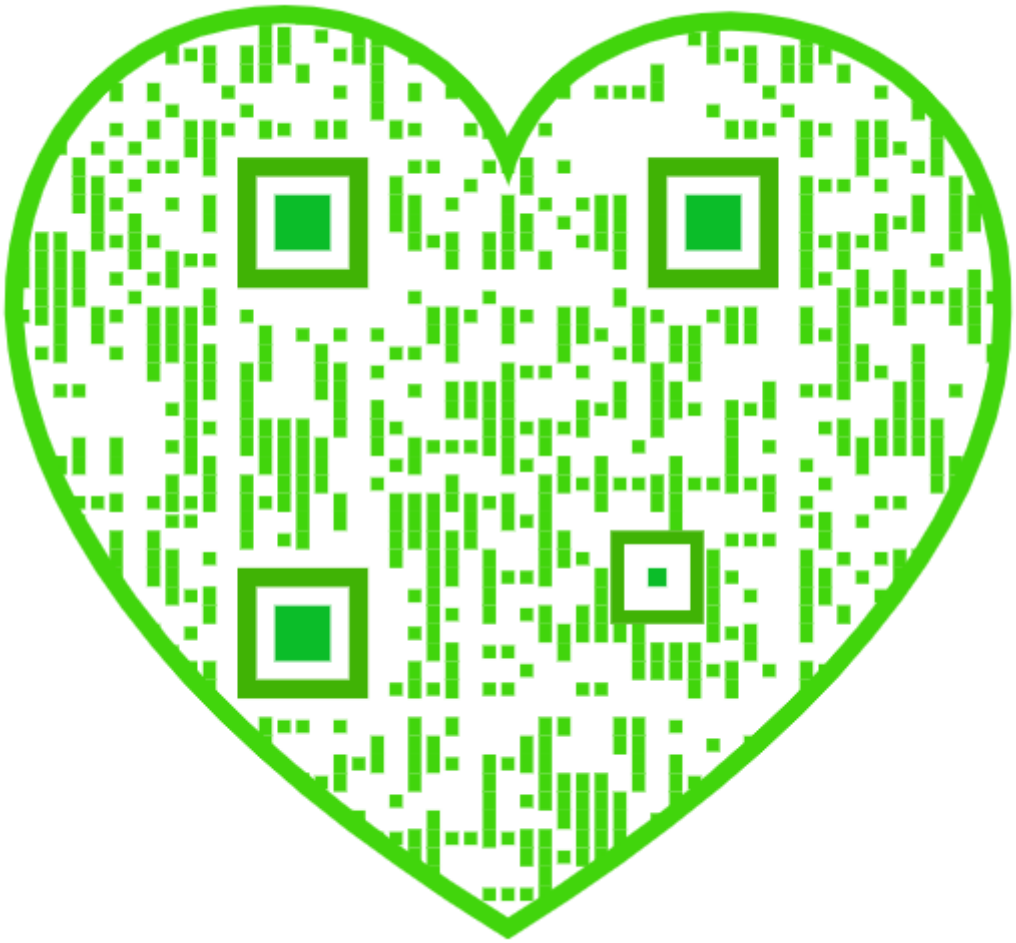

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THE GODOLPHIN ARABIAN
From an old print

The Arab Horse

By
SPENCER BORDEN

Many illustrations
from photographs

NEW YORK
Doubleday, Page & Company
1906

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PREFACE

In the present work Mr. Spencer Borden brings together a most interesting mass of information regarding the relation of the Arab horse to the life and history of the Arabians, and he has kindly asked me to preface the work by speaking more particularly of the natural history and of the antiquity of this breed.

About two years ago I began especially to study the Arabian after having devoted many years to the study of the horse in general. The anatomy, the origin, and the natural history of the Arab has naturally attracted less attention than the relation of the Arab to the origin of the thoroughbred racing horse. So I directed my attention especially to the structure of the animal as a perfect living machine, to the part it has played in the history of the world and to the domestication of horses from the earliest times.

This proves to be a far more fascinating subject than any of us suspected a few years ago. Darwin, in treating of the origin of the horse, among other animals, did not give the Arab an especially distinct rank. Other writers, such as the distinguished French anatomist Sansan, have pointed out the important differences in the structure of the Arab, but have not fully sustained the theory of its separateness. It remained for Professor William Ridgeway of Cambridge University to write what will prove to be an epoch-making book on the natural history of the Arab, since it forces the question of the entire separateness of the Arab breed, as a breed produced by nature before domestication by man, and entirely separate from the Northern horses of Europe.

This raises two great questions:

Did the Arab horses spring from wild horses entirely distinct from other wild horses and superior in structure from other wild horses?

Secondly, in what part of the world did the wild horses which gave rise to the Arabs have their natural home and breeding grounds?

On the first point, as to the entire separateness of the Arab breed as an original or natural breed from other horses, I am convinced not only by the arguments and facts brought forth by Sansan, Ridgeway, and others, but by my own observations that nature endowed the so-called Arab with many of its finest qualities, and that the Arabs have improved the breed but without greatly modifying it. The methods of horse rearing adopted among the Arabs are calculated to produce a fine and hardy race but the methods of selection chiefly of mares are not calculated to modify a race very rapidly. As soon as the English took hold of the Arab breed and began to select both mares and stallions for a specific purpose, namely, for high speed at short distances, they produced very rapid modifications, so that the modern

thoroughbred is a very different creature from its Arab ancestor; in some respects superior, in others inferior.

On the second great question, in what part of the world this noble breed lived in its wild state, Ridgeway has advanced a largely original opinion, widely differing from that of Blunt and other great authorities on this subject, that the wild ancestor of the Arab did not belong in Arabia at all but had its home in Africa, especially in the ancient country of Libya, lying west of Egypt. He goes so far as to give this wild horse a distinct name, *Equus libycus*, in reference to its Libyan home.

I am strongly inclined to believe that Ridgeway is right. He certainly brings forth a great mass of evidence of every conceivable kind that the noble horse which has been raising the quality of the horse blood of Europe and western Asia from time immemorial came not out of Arabia but out of northern Africa. His view is naturally directly opposed to

many of the interesting Arab traditions as to the great antiquity of the breed in Arabia proper, but Ridgeway shows that even Arab traditions may be interpreted to point to a remote African origin. Ridgeway's work forces a more careful discussion and examination of this question than has ever been made before, and will, I have no doubt, end in its solution.

On sentimental grounds it will be hard to take away the Arab from what we have always considered its original home and regard it as an importation into Arabia from Africa. This question is certainly not yet settled; but we may regard it as settled that whatever the issue the so-called Arabian is a very ancient breed, including characters which were strongly established in a natural state before domestication by man, and which, therefore, have such great antiquity that they are extremely stable in heredity and cross breeding.

The most profound of these heredity

characters are in the skeleton or bony framework.

The skeleton of "Nimr," like that of other Arabs, is distinguished by one less vertebra in the back, a point long ago observed by Sanson as characteristic of the North African horses. I also find that in the fore leg the ulna, or small bone of the fore leg, is complete, whereas in other horses it ends in a splint. There are only sixteen vertebrae in the tail, as compared with eighteen in the tail of the horses of northern Europe. Other characters are the horizontal position of the pelvis, as in most animals of great speed, the large size of the brain case, relative shortness of the skull, the slenderness of the lower jaw.

When one becomes once familiar with the fine points of the Arab he can see traces of the fine points of this breed impressed everywhere: there is no question that it has been the uplifting, ennobling quality which has been introduced in the blood of commoner horses

from a period dating back from 1600 to 2000 B. C.

To know the Arab horse is to love him. Those who, like the author of the present work, are endeavouring to maintain the purity of the original breed, and to establish the value of its qualities, are rendering a substantial, practical, and theoretical service.

HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN

New York, May 16, 1906.

INTRODUCTION

SOME years ago there came into possession of the writer, an old book. It had not very many pages, and they were yellow with age. One entire page was devoted to the title:

The Genealogy of the English Race Horse;
With the Natural History of his Progenitors from the earliest times. . . . . Collected from the best Authorities, etc,, etc., etc.
By T. Hornby Morland.
London.
Printed by J. Barfield, Waldour St.
Printer to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.
1810.

In common with other writers who have studied the subject, the author argues convincingly that the blood of the pure Arab is the foundation upon which the English thoroughbred horse has been built by those responsible for his creation and improvement. He writes:

"Arabian horses are the most beautiful; they are larger, more muscular, and handsomer than the Barbs. The Arabs preserve with care, and for an amazing length of time, the races of their horses; they know all their alliances and genealogies.

. . . . . .

"The Arabs, by long experience, know all the races of their own horses, as well as those of their neighbours."

Then follows a long account of the care given to secure properly selected mates in breeding their horses, the formalities observed when the horses are bred, the solicitous painstaking when the foal is born to make certain his identity, so that it can never be questioned, the methods of feeding and growth, of training and care. After setting out these matters with great detail he concludes:

"From all these facts it appears, that Arabian horses have always been, and still are, the best horses in the world; that from them, or by the mediation of the Barbs, are descended the finest horses

in Europe, in Africa, and in Asia; that Arabia is not only the original climate for horses, but the best suited for their constitution, since, instead of crossing the breed with foreign horses, the natives anxiously preserve the purity of their own race; that, at least if Arabia be not the best climate for horses, the Arabs have produced the same effect, by the scrupulous and particular attention they have paid toward ennobling their race, and never permitting individuals to mix, which were not most beautiful and of finest quality; and that, by the same attention continued for ages, they have improved the species far beyond what nature would have performed in the most favourable climate."

These words, written a century ago, may well serve as introduction in presenting the subject to be considered in the pages of this book. The sources of Morland's information are unknown to the present writer. That he was well informed, will, it is believed, become apparent in what is to follow.

Professor Osborn, in his Preface, calls

attention to certain questions as worthy of our consideration. First: Are Arab horses so different from all others that they are a class by themselves, distinct and separate? Secondly: In what part of the world did they first appear?

The latter question is one for scientists to settle; it is a subject for academic discussion alone. Before we are through with the matters to be presented, there will probably be few who will doubt where Arab horses live at present and have been found for hundreds of years in a state of pure breeding. With this view Professor Osborn is entirely in accord, for he writes:

"There is no question that it (the Arab horse) has been the uplifting, ennobling quality which has been introduced in the blood of common horses from a period dating back from 1600 to 2000 B. C."

His statement not only coincides with writings which will be quoted of those who have studied the subject in Arabia

within our own times, it is confirmed by the discoveries of Layard in his excavations of Nineveh, capital of the ancient Assyrian Empire, on the border land of Arabia itself. He found bas-reliefs representing men armed with spears, mounted on horses of typical Arab conformation and size, hunting lions. It is a curious fact that no horse but an Arab has ever been found endowed with the courage to face a lion, but that in our own day Arab horses are frequently used in hunting the king of beasts.

The point of most vital interest to the present discussion is Professor Osborn's affirmative answer to his own first question. He expresses no doubt when he declares "the entire separateness of the Arab breed, produced by nature before domestication by man."

In this he is in entire accord with those other eminent authorities, Sansan, the Frenchman, and Ridgeway, the English scientist. Incidentally, it is of interest that the scientific data from which Pro-

fessor Osborn partially draws his conclusions, were gathered by study of the skeleton of the great Arab horse Nimr, whose picture, with that of his beautiful son Segario, we are able to produce in these pages; a horse for several years in possession of, and ridden by, the writer of these lines.

NIMR

THE ARAB HORSE

CHAPTER I

Arab Horses Outside of Arabia

FOR many years in Russia, Hungary, France, Germany and other countries on the continent of Europe, Arabian horses have been valued at their true worth, and studs devoted to their production have been maintained at public expense.

Peter the Great established the Imperial Russian Stud, and with his successors sought at all times to strengthen it by new infusions of pure Arab blood. Captain Ismailoff, who was sent by the Russian Government with horses to be shown at the Columbian Exposition at Chicago in 1893, tells us that as early as 1772 Catherine the Great had in the Imperial Stud, under care of Count Orloff-Tchestmensky, twelve pure Arab stallions, and ten Arab mares.

In our day the Hungarian Government contributes annually $50,000 as added money to the Budapest race meetings, and $10,000 additional to meetings in the provinces, for the purpose of encouraging the breeding of superior horses. Not only so, the Government maintains not less than four great breeding studs at the public expense, under direction of Prince Louis Esterhazy. Of these, one at Babolna is devoted exclusively to pure bred and half bred Arabs, and much Arab blood is also found in the other three. Babolna was made a separate stud, an offshoot from Mezohegyes in 1789; and at Mezohegyes in 1810 there were 13,386 animals, supplying at that time a thoussand cavalry remounts annually to the army.

The influence of these studs of Arab horses was forcibly illustrated in 1892, at the time of the famous long distance race of cavalry officers between Berlin and Vienna. The Prussians starting at Berlin rode to Vienna, the Austrians

started at Vienna, and rode to Berlin. The winner of the race was Maresa, a brown gelding owned and ridden by an Austrian. He was a small Magyar horse, bred in a private stud on the Stukweissenberge Comitat, his sire a *Gidran*, his dam an undersized *Hotsul* or *Hocul* mare. The mare had been given by her breeder to one of the *czikos* or mounted stockmen, who herd the mobs of mares that graze on the mountains. One night a burglary took place some ten German miles (fifty English miles) from the stud to which this horse herd was attached. Witnesses swore they had seen him in the act of robbing; but other reputable witnesses, a number of them, were able to verify the fact that the man was seen at his post at eight in the evening and four in the morning of the night of the burglary, the alibi was decided to have been established, and the man was acquitted of the charge. Shortly afterward the fellow became seriously ill and thought himself about to die. He then confessed

that he was indeed the robber; and told that he had ridden his mare the fifty miles over the mountains and fifty miles return in seven hours, besides having committed the crime.

These Hotsuls are nearly the only known tribe of riding mountaineers. Their little horses are noted for great weight-carrying power, are active, wiry, sure-footed, untiring, and very gentle. They are descended from the high caste Arab horses brought into the Carpathians by the Turks, who have invaded the country no less than ninety times within five hundred years. They are generally black, bay or black-brown, and from 13 hands 2 inches to 14.2 high. They are said to be the best shooting ponies in the world, and can endure great hardships, never tasting grain, and are pastured on mountains where there is said to be no day without rain. Bred in the neighbouring stud of Radautz, or at that of Mezohegyes, the Gidran—more properly Jedran, one of the highest caste

of Arab families—is either of pure desert blood, or an Arab crossed on select English thoroughbred mares. Those bred at Radautz range in freedom over the wild Carpathian plateaux during the summer, and one of these was the sire, the little robber Hotsul mare the dam, of Maresa, who carried his rider from Vienna to Berlin, four hundred and twenty-five miles, between Monday morning and the following Thursday noon.

Not only so, but the Prussian officer to whom was awarded the gold medal for having the horse which should finish the journey in the best condition, Lieut. W. von Gaffein, was mounted on a horse of similar breeding, a brown gelding fifteen hands high, bred by Count Potocki in Galicia. Though Maresa made the journey in two or three hours less time, Von Gaffein's horse came through apparently uninjured by the cruel test, whose severity can be judged by the fact that of one hundred and seventeen Prussian officers to start, only seventy-one reached their

goal, the horses of the other forty-six dying en route.

There is then some slight compensation for the afflicted countries of the Balkan peninsula, so often the scene of Turkish rapine, in the fact that when driven out the Turks left good horses behind them. Constantinople was captured by Mohammed II. in 1453. His successors Bajazet II. and Selim I. conquered Mesopotamia, and overran Syria, Palestine and Egypt. Selim also won a great victory over the sheik of Mecca, Lord of Nejd, so putting him in possession of some of the finest horses in the world. In 1522 the Turks invaded Hungary, 500,000 strong, including in the army their terrible cavalry squadrons numbering 300,000 horsemen. Having twice besieged Vienna, the wave of Mohammedan conquest was finally rolled back on itself by the great victory won under Jan Sobeiski, King of Poland. It is told that when Mustapha was finally repulsed from Vienna, the Turkish Vizier lost his

own war horse, and that when finally driven from the country he left behind him "horses of rare value."

From that day to the present time the great nobles of Hungary demand the best of Arabian blood in their stables; and even now a Bedouin is attached to the Hungarian Army as master of horse, having the rank of major, charged with the duty of selecting the best of Arabian horses for the royal studs. Since these were established, in 1785, the animals have been chosen for their symmetry, power and action. A careful record of their pedigrees has been kept and the breeding carried on by a scheme of intelligent selection. Outside the government breeding establishments there are to-day no less than one hundred and fifty private studs, in which are to be found 5,000 Arab mares of purest blood.

In Germany and France, also, important studs of Arabian horses are maintained at the public expense. Some of the animals from the stud of the King

of Wurtemburg were brought to the United States, and are owned by Mr. Heyl of Milwaukee, who showed them at the Columbian Exposition at Chicago in 1893. The French have extensive heras of Arab horses both in France and in Algeria. In the days of Napoleon III. whole regiments of chasseurs mounted on Arab horses could be seen at the great French army manœuvres.

The greater number of Arabs imported to America in late years having come from England, the history of the Arabian horse in Great Britain seems to call for somewhat extended consideration.

John Lawrence, whose "History and Delineation of the Horse" was published in 1809 is one of the earliest writers on this subject. From him we learn that James I., Charles I., Oliver Cromwell, Charles II. and James II. were all interested in horse breeding, and all looked to the pure Arab horse as the source of improving blood. The list of horses and mares brought by them to England from

the East is a long one, the "Royal Mares" being at the foundation of the English thoroughbred horse of to-day. It was in the reign of Queen Anne, however, that the famous Darley Arabian was sent from Aleppo by Mr. Darley's brother a merchant of that city, procured by him near Palmyra from the wandering Bedouins. Within twenty years the papers have been found which came with this famous horse, confirming the independent information obtained by H. M. Consul General at Aleppo, concerning the family to which the horse belonged.

The Byerly Turk was brought to England some years before the Darley Arabian, and the Godolphin Arabian came a few years after him, in 1726. These three horses of Eastern origin have always been considered the blood that produced the modern English race horse, the Arabians being the more prized. John Lawrence wrote in 1809:

"But the fame of these two great Arabians, the Darley and Godolphin,

has almost swallowed up that of the rest; and our best horses, for nearly a century past have been either deeply imbued with their blood, or entirely derived from it."

Time has made the truth of this assertion even more impressive. Not only so, but the process of elimination has gone on till the Darley Arabian blood has become paramount even over that of the Godolphin, several of whose sons and grandsons came to America in the early days, and were highly prized in South Carolina.

Touchstone in his great book, published by subscription in 1890, whose preface was written by the Duke of Beaufort, remarks (page 13):

"It is certain that when a thoroughbred is taken out of training early, when he is no longer subjected to that special régime which changes his outward form and modifies his constitution, he reverts to the Arab type with astonishing rapidity."

And again:

"Among the Eastern stallions which are the originators of the thoroughbred of the present day, the eldest is the Arab horse purchased by Mr. Darley, a commission agent at Aleppo, and a thorough paced sportsman, to whose influence and energy is due in large measure the reaction which took place in England at the beginning of the eighteenth century in favour of animals of Eastern origin. In the course of a hunting excursion in the neighbourhood of Aleppo, Mr. Darley met an Arab, who was riding a very remarkable horse, whose speed, endurance and lightness gave him the appearance of being a faultless animal.

"In exchange for an English musket, a weapon very little known in the East, and a good round sum of money, Manicka, as this superb animal was called, became the property of Mr. Darley, who sent him to his brother, Mr. John Brewster Darley, of Aldby Park, York, where he arrived in the beginning of 1712 (1705 ? S.-B.), he being at that time four years old. . . . His two best representatives, Flying Childers and Bartlett Childers, bred by Mr. Charles Childers of Carr

House, were purchased by the Duke of Devonshire and Mr. Bartlett.

"There is no authentic portrait of the Darley Arabian, and we are unable therefore to reproduce him side by side with his rival, the Godolphin Arabian. The important part which he played in the formation of a pure breed must be our excuse for this digression, and we may add that he was a dark bay with white markings on the two near legs and a long blaze on the head. He was about fifteen hands high, with a large head, well developed haunches, plenty of length, and unexceptionable limbs. He was in fact, both on the paternal and maternal side, of the breed held in highest esteem by the Arabs.

"Thanks to Mr. Darley, a fresh impulse was given, and it was not destined to receive any further check. The foundation of the Jockey Club in 1781 was the final consecration of the work thus begun."

Major Roger Upton, with whom the reader is to become quite well acquainted, is most emphatic in his tribute to the Darley Arabian. He writes ("Newmarket and Arabia," page 84):

"In itself I cannot help considering the line from the Godolphin Arab or Barb a very poor one, and, like that from the Byerly Turk, it really owes what celebrity it may have, and its continuance, to the infusions of blood it has received from the descendants of the Darley Arabian. It is worthy of remark, although not extraordinary, that almost in proportion to the amount of Darley Arabian blood has been the success of the individuals of this line."

By the end of the nineteenth century it was capable of proof by statisticians giving their attention to the subject, such as Mr. Bruce Lowe and Mr. W. A. Allison who had worked out the famous "Figure System" for the guidance of race horse breeders, that of the winners of the "Classic" English races (the Derby, Oaks, and St. Leger), since their establishment, covering a period of a hundred years, more than ninety-five per cent. were descendants in the male line from the Darley Arabian, and thoroughly saturated with his blood.

Recognition of the preponderating influence of this prepotent animal was made in a most practical manner both in England and America between 1850 and 1860, America acting first. In 1855 the New Orleans Jockey Club, at a meeting at the old Metaire Race Course, asked Mr. Keene Richards of Kentucky to go to Arabia and try to secure some of the coveted blood. About the same time, Admiral Rous of England, having conferred with other great breeders, secured the appointment of Mr. W. S. Skene as H. M. Consul General at Aleppo. He went with the definite purpose of cultivating the friendship of the Bedouin tribes, especially of the Anazah, the great breeding tribes of the desert, and of learning from them, if possible, the family of horses that produced the Darley Arabian, also if more of the same blood could be obtained. A few years later, Captain (afterward Major) Roger D. Upton, of the 7th Lancers impressed by the superiority of the Turkish cavalry in the Crim-

ean War, because of their better mounts, urged upon the British War Office that England should procure Arab blood to freshen up the horses of the country—become tender weeds only fit to run dash races—so providing suitable remounts for the British cavalry.

Both Skene and Upton were fine Arabic scholars, besides being excellent horsemen.

For nearly twenty years Mr. Skene remained at his post, cultivating the acquaintance of the Arab Sheiks who came to trade at Aleppo, making long journeys with them into the desert, assisting them in their intercourse with the Turkish Government officials. At one time he saved the life of Suleiman ibu Mirshid, Sheik of Sheiks of all the Anazah tribes of the Bedouins, and later he interfered to save the life of another great Sheik, Jedäan. Indeed, so fast was the friendship he established with them, that they adopted him as a brother by formal rites. After eighteen years

of this service Mr. Skene was able to write to Admiral Rous, that he was certain of the family of horses which produced the Darley Arabian, and his friendship with the Anazah tribes made it possible to procure a limited number of choice animals.

On receipt of the news, Admiral Rous communicated with certain English breeders, and a syndicate of three, composed of the Hon. Henry Chaplin, Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Sandeman, M. P., and Mr. Hazelwood, a director of the Bank of England, agreed to send Major Upton to Aleppo to Mr. Skene, they to go into the desert and choose and secure the horses. It is reported that the final cost of the undertaking was £20,000 ($100,000).

CHAPTER II

Arabia, and Some of the Bedouins

AT THE northeastern corner of the Mediterranean Sea, just below the point where the southern coast of Asia Minor joins the western coast of Syria, lies the town of Scanderoon, the ancient city of Alexandretta. This is the seaport for Aleppo, ancient Haleb, about one hundred miles to the east and a little south, for centuries a trading centre whence go caravans of merchandise to the towns far down the Euphrates, and where are brought the grains and wool that come in return. Almost due east of Scanderoon, about five hundred miles distant, is Mosul, on the River Tigris, which from this point flows south and a little easterly about four hundred miles till it joins the Euphrates near Bussorah, the two rivers thus joined

flowing into the Persian Gulf. About two hundred miles below Mosul is Bagdad, also on the Tigris River. The Euphrates and Tigris nearly unite at this point, but again separate to join farther down, as already noted. Still farther east, nearly parallel with the Tigris is the western frontier of Persia.

The line from Scanderoon to Mosul may be taken as the northern boundary of Arabia. The western frontier of Persia, then the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, mark its eastern boundary. On the south lies the Indian Ocean. On the west are the Red Sea, Palestine, and Syria. From this rapid sketch one can get an idea of the great area of the country. Coming in at the northwestern corner from the mountains of Asia Minor, the Euphrates River crosses the upper end of Arabia at a slant from northwest to southeast, and the valley of the Euphrates has for thousands of years been a most important route of Communication between the Orient and western nations.

Indeed, until the discovery of the way around the Cape of Good Hope, and later the construction of the Suez Canal, it was the only route and its cities were the great centres of commerce for the world.

When we speak of Arabia we are apt to forget what the country once stood for. Between the Tigris and Euphrates is the land of Mesopotamia. Here was believed to have been the Garden of Eden—whatever that may mean—the place whence the human race spread abroad to populate the earth. Mosul, already mentioned, is the site of Nineveh, capital of the great Assyrian Empire. Fifty miles south of Bagdad are the ruins of Babylon, where the children of Israel were in captivity, and within ten miles of Babylon are still to be seen the remains of the Tower of Babel. El Uz, below Bagdad, on the Euphrates, was the home of Job; and from Chaldea, east of the Euphrates, came Abraham, father of the Hebrew race.

Through this land Alexander the Great

marched to the conquest of India, after having overthrown the Babylonian Empire. In a straight line west of Deyr on the Euphrates, and half way between that point and Damascus, is Tadmur, the ancient Palmyra, capital city of Zenobia, that Queen who was conquered by Aurelian, and carried away to Rome to grace his triumphal entry.

Later in the Christian Era Mohammed established his religion at Mecca and Medina, far down in the Arabian peninsula. The Mohammedan Khaliphs afterward made Bagdad their capital, and held a court there that was glittering in riches, the home of art, science, poetry; the scene of the Arabian Nights Entertainments until Timour the Tartar with his hordes of barbarians poured down from the North and drowned the country in blood. In ancient days this country was the home of science. Some of the earliest astronomers were Arabs of Chaldea, and our present system of numerals, which makes modern mathematical

calculations possible, the decimal system, was an Arabian invention, brought to the Western world by the Saracenic invasion of Palestine, upper Africa, and Europe, which was an Arabian overrunning.

What is most germane to our present investigation, however, is the fact that this country is the place where the horse has attained his highest perfection; where he has been bred pure by a careful system of selection adhered to for hundreds of years, a system not departed from in the slightest degree. It has come to be acknowledged by the most intelligent breeders that thorough breeding in horses is chiefly a calculation of the amount of Arab blood they possess, just as gold stands as a measure of value in the currency of a country, the value of a coin consisting of the amount of gold it contains.

The oldest and most exclusive registry in the world—the one at the foundation of all more recent works of the kind is

"Weatherby's General Stud Book of Thoroughbred Horses," the only recognised organ of the English Jockey Club. The makers of that Stud Book recognised in the beginning, and to-day make the specific statement in writing that "Native Arabs, with the Barbs, are the source from whence the race horse springs."

The history of the Arab horse is not merely the romantic tale of imaginative writers, though poets have sung his praises, artists have painted his graceful form on canvas, and sculptors have made use of him as their model. Job describes him in words that could apply to no other horse and the horses from the frieze of the Parthenon at Athens, the Elgin Marbles now in the British Museum, could have been modelled from none but Arabians.

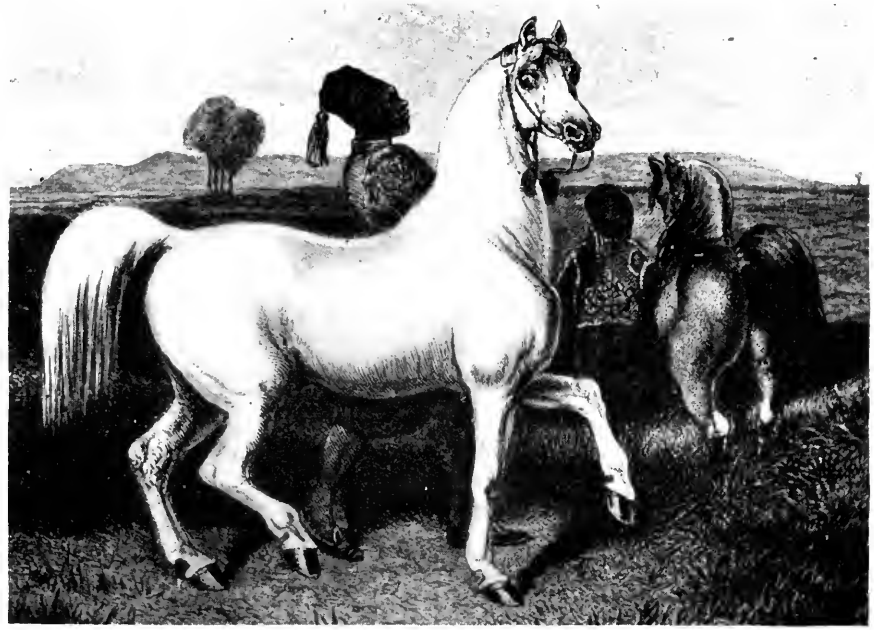
It is fortunate, however, that before it was too late, careful travellers, scholars and horsemen, such as Major Roger Upton and the Blunts, have visited the land of the Arab horse and written in

books what they learned from original sources of this interesting subject.

Upton and the Blunts both made two journeys to Arabia in the years between 1870 and 1880. In both of Upton's journeys he had the company and assistance of H. M. Consul General at Aleppo, Mr. Skene. His wanderings were extended both in distance and in time. Hon. Henry Chaplin, former Minister of Agriculture in Great Britain, breeder and owner of the famous Derby winner Hermit, tells us that Upton went a thousand miles into the desert south of Tadmur to get the horses procured for him, and he was gone two years. Both Chaplin and the Weatherbys are sponsors for the truth of every statement made by Upton.

After Upton went Mr. Wilfrid Scawen Blunt and his wife, Lady Anne Blunt, a granddaughter of Lord Byron. Their first journey was in the winter of 1877–78, three years after Upton, and they covered much of the same ground as he, meeting

many of the same people, though they went also further east than Upton. Leaving Aleppo in January, 1878, they reached the valley of the Euphrates as soon as possible, then followed the river as far as Bagdad. From Aleppo to Deyr they had the company of Mr. Skene, who went with Upton. Then he turned back to Aleppo as his consular prerogatives went no further in that direction, the Blunts proceeding to Bagdad alone. From that point, after crossing the Tigris River they went north and east to Shergat, nearly up to Mosul, traversing a quite new country for Western voyagers. At Shergat they turned west to again come to Deyr, where Mr. Skene had agreed to meet them on a fixed day. This he was unable to do. He was old, infirm, and, while waiting, his successor came from England, so he was detained. The Blunts were most anxious to go among the Anazah Bedouins, with whom Upton spent the greater part of his time, and to meet such of his friends as they might,



ARABIAN HORSES

Frontispiece of R. D. Upton's "Newmarket and Arabia"

being especially anxious to see Jedäan, their War Sheik—known as the "Rob Roy of the Desert." After great difficulties they got away from Deyr, and in due time reached Tadmur, about half way in the direct line between Deyr and Damascus. Near this point Mr. Skene overtook them, went with them among the Anazah, helped them to buy horses and continued with them to Damascus. From that point the Blunts returned to England via Beirut, Mr. Skene went back to Aleppo. The next winter found the Blunts again at Damascus, from which point they made a journey across the southern desert to Nejd, a part of the world not reached by Upton; in fact a place that no more than half a dozen Europeans are known to have ever seen.

The results of Upton's visit were written in two books, "Newmarket and Arabia," a sketchy statement of early impressions, and a more serious work, "Gleanings from the Desert of Arabia," published after his death; now, unfor-

tunately, out of print, and copies extremely difficult to obtain.

Lady Anne Blunt also wrote two books of absorbing interest, "The Bedouin Tribes of the Euphrates," a journal of her first journey, and the "Pilgrimage to Nejd," the story of the second. No one can read these books without being impressed with the veracity and intelligence of the writers. Weatherbey & Sons, publishers of the "General Stud Book," say that they consider Mr. Wilfrid S. Blunt and Lady Anne Blunt the foremost living authorities on Arab horses. On these sources of information the present writing in large measure depends, wherever they touch the matter in hand.

Some of the individuals met by Upton and the Blunts were most interesting personages. Their introduction to the reader will help him to appreciate the sources of information, and the surroundings whence came many very great mares and stallions.

The Anazah Bedouins have always been

the greatest horse breeders. Each tribe of the Anazah has its individual leader or Sheik, and at the time of Upton's visit all the tribes of Anazah were united under one very remarkable man named Suleiman ibn Mirshid, who was called the Sheik of Sheiks. He was not only a great warrior, but also a wise administrator of the internal affairs of the tribes.

Some years before the time of Upton's visit the Shammar tribes had been united also under a great leader named Abd-ul-Kerim. The Shammar were Bedouins who came originally from Nejd, one thousand or fifteen hundred miles lower down in the Arabian peninsula. Something more than two hundred years ago, under the guidance of a Sheik named Faris, they had come north with their flocks and camels, invading the pasture lands always occupied by the Anazah. These latter did not hesitate to wage war on the Shammar, and drove them across the Euphrates into Mesopotamia, to a point near Mosul. Abd-ul-Kerim was

the descendant of that Faris in the sixth generation, and inherited the feud that always existed between the Shammar and the Anazah, periodical raids across the river being the consequence, in both directions; the land between the Tigris and Euphrates being considered the home of the Shammar, that between the Euphrates and Damascus, and reaching from the neighbourhood of Aleppo far south toward Jebel Shammar, being the pasture lands conceded to the Anazah. The vital importance of protecting these pastures and the necessity for extensive ranges will be understood as we read from Lady Anne Blunt's first book, that she saw together in one place a hundred and fifty thousand camels, besides thousands of sheep and many horses, all the property of a single tribe of Anazah, the Roala, whose tents covered an area of 12 square miles. These great encampments had to be moved every few days because the pasturage was eaten down to the bare ground in very short order

by the thousands of animals feeding thereon.

Yet Abd-ul-Kerim, though bound by hereditary obligation to fight the Anazah whenever and wherever they met, regarded the amenites of life, and his honour became a proverb throughout the length and breadth of the desert. It happened that at one period of his life, in his boyhood, he lived among the Anazah in the tents of Jedäan's father. So, though when they had grown to manhood these two were bound to be always at war, Abd-ul-Kerim never forgot his affection for his boyhood friend. It happened then that Abd-ul-Kerim, in the course of the civil war, caught Jedäan's forces in such a position that they were at his mercy. The trap was to be sprung on the morrow and Abd-ul-Kerim meant to push his advantage to the utmost. Yet he wanted to spare Jedäan individually. Therefore, the night preceding the day of the climax, he sent one of his men to Jedäan's camp with his own white mare, bearing a mes-

sage to Jedäan that the morrow meant certain defeat for the Anazah, and begging him to accept Abd-ul-Kerim's mare, and to ride her in the battle, as she was swifter than any animal belonging to the Shammar forces and could take him safely away. This Jedäan did and saved himself. Upton saw Abd-ul-Kerim's mare in his possession when he visited the Anazah in 1875, and describes her.

Shortly afterward Abd-ul-Kerim, who had been successful in defeating the Turks who sought to subdue the Shammar, was betrayed into their hands by his secretary, an Armenian. They hung him from the bridge at Mosul.

His brother Farhan, a reprobate, submitted to the Turks, accepted from them the title of Pasha, and at the time of the visit of the Blunts to Mesopotamia was in receipt from them of a salary of £3,000 per annum.

The more noble of the Shammar, however, joined themselves to a younger brother named Faris, who declared unend-

ing war on the Turks and all who held to Turks. He was visited by the Blunts, adopted Mr. Blunt as his brother, by solemn rites, and is described by Lady Anne Blunt as a most brave, courteous and intelligent genteman of distinguished appearance and manners.

It is this policy of "divide and conquer" that has marked the entire intercourse of the Turks with the Bedouins. So long as Suleiman ibn Mirshid lived he kept the Anazah tribes solidly combined. Shortly after Upton's visit, however, and a little time before that of the Blunts, he allowed himself to accept an invitation from the Turkish Governor at Deyr, to visit the town and make a treaty of commerce between his tribes and the Turks, for exchange of products. At a banquet which was served to mark the close of the agreement, poison was put in the cup of coffee which was handed Suleiman, and he fell back dead as soon as he had drunk it. Confusion followed among his tribesmen.

Then the seeds of discord were sown among the individual tribes of the Anazah. Their herds of camels, their sheep, their horses were so numerous that it required a wise hand to guide them safely, assigning pasturage to each tribe according to its requirements. The Sebäa and Gomussa tribes had always made use of the district between Homs and Hamah, above Damascus, on the western side of the desert. The next year when they came to their usual district they found their brethren, the Roala, there before them. These had been told by the wily Turk that their fellow tribesmen of the Sebäa and Gomussa were not treating them justly. They were advised to take their great flocks and herds, whose numbers have been mentioned, to the good pastures before the others could reach them, and were assured that the Turks would help them hold what they seized. In an evil hour they accepted the advice; Suleiman ibn Mirshid having been murdered was not at hand to arrange the

difficulty, so when the Blunts were among the Anazah they found a factional war being waged. Sotäam ibn Shäalin was leader of the Roala against the combined Sebäa and Gomussa. Suleiman had been succeeded by his two cousins, Beteyan ibn Mirshid and his brother, neither of whom had a tithe of his administrative ability, and as neither was able to wage the war against the Roala, they had made Jedäan their Akil, or War Sheik, to manage that end of the tribal business.

From what has been said it is easy to understand the wretched condition of affairs among the Bedouins for the ten years between 1874 and 1884. Let us remember, also, that during that period the Russo-Turkish war was carried on, so that relief from the usual aggression of the Turks, left the Bedouins free to fight among themselves. It was during the raids and counter-raids of this time that many priceless animals changed hands, to be run hot haste by their captors into the towns bordering the desert for

sale to save them from recapture. It is certain that in the decade mentioned more high-caste Arab horses came out of the desert than ever before or since. Some of the animals thus coming into strange hands will be mentioned specifically.

CHAPTER III

Early History and Families of Arab Horses

THE Bedouins of Arabia are a pastoral people who have lived for centuries from their flocks of sheep and herds of camels, and have bred their horses on well established lines from time immemorial. They have always been independent, acknowledging no rulers but their own Sheiks; jealous of interference by outsiders. Job was a Bedouin, and the place of his origin, Ur of Chaldea, was visited by the Blunts on their first journey in Arabia.

All the Bedouins are descendants of Ishmael, and they have genealogies dating from the earliest antiquity. It will be remembered that Abraham himself was a nomad, who came from Chaldea, the country east of the Euphrates

and Tigris, between those rivers and the Persian boundary. Hagar, mother of Ishmael, was Abraham's concubine. After the birth of Isaac, Ishmael's half-brother, she was driven into the desert with her fourteen-year-old son by the jealousy of Sarah, Isaac's mother. Arab tradition supplements Bible history by telling us that when Ishmael was sent away with his mother he lamented his barren heritage. He was assured, however, that there was reserved for him the most valuable gift to men. This he subsequently discovered was the horse of the Kuhl race, which he found in Hejaz.

The two branches of descendants from Abraham were as follows:

Abraham

	Isaac.	1	Ishmael
	Jacob.	2	Kidai.
	Judah.	3	Hamal.
	Pharez.	4	Nabet.
(about 1635 B. C.)	Hezron.	5	Salaman.
	Ram.	6	Alhamaisa.
	Amminadab.	7	Alyasa.
	Nashon.	8	Odad.
	Salmon.	9	Oddo.
	Boaz.	10	Adnan.

(about 1635 B. C.) [*continued*]	Obed.	11	Maad.
	Jesse.	12	Nazar.
	David.	13	Rabiah (al Faras)
(B. C. 1033)	Solomon.	14	Asad.
	Rehoboam.	15	Anazah.

Salaman, fourth in descent from Ishmael, living B. C., 1635, contemporary of Hezron, is recorded as owner of five mares of superlative value. Five hundred years later, his descendant eight generations further along, contemporary of David, was a man named Rabiah. It is recorded that although Rabiah was the third son of Nazar (perhaps the fourth) he was chosen by his father as the most suitable person to be entrusted with his very valuable breeding mares, and to continue their use properly, so they were given to him. and the words *al Faras* ("of the horses") were added to his name. Rabiah al Faras was the grandfather of Anazah; and from him spring all those Bedouin tribes that bear his name, who breed, and have bred for three thousand years, the purest and choicest Arab horses. Anazah inherited them from his grand-

father Rabiah, descended without taint of foreign blood from five famous mares owned by Sheik Salaman, he being fourth in descent from Ishmael son of Abraham. Major Upton sums the entire matter in these words: "An *authentic* family of horses has been preserved in Arabia for 3,500 years."

Until Upton had made the researches that opened up the true history of the Bedouins and their horses, it was common report that these latter were descended from mares that belonged to Mahomet. It is capable of proof that Mahomet never owned a horse until he went to Medina. He then became possessed of seven mares, three of which were bought —their names and former owners are recorded—and four others were gifts. The race of pure bred Arab horses was in existence three thousand years before Mahomet was born.

Some writers have mentioned a family of Nedjid horses, and of Kochlani, as being the best strains of Arab blood.

Major Upton and Lady Anne Blunt have taught the world that these are not families of horses at all. Nejd is the name of a great district in the lower end of Arabia, for centuries under the absolute control of the Anazah tribes—Gomussa, Sebäa, Raola, Welled Ali, Fedäan, etc.—though not now in their possession. As these tribes have none but the purest strains of horses, animals whose blood has been kept untainted for a known period of 3,500 years, the Nedjid horses (as Americans would speak of Kentucky or State of Maine horses) were highly esteemed by those fortunate enough to possess them.

The word Kochlani is derived from *Kuhl*, antimony. Lady Anne Blunt tells us that Arab women apply antimony to their eyebrows and eyelashes to increase the brilliancy of their eyes, antimony being black. Therefore, as all Arab horses are supposed to have black rings about their eyes, such are called Kochlani. Among the Anazah, Major Upton found the words *Keheilan* and *Keheilet*

applied to the horses. Both words are recognised as derivatives from Kuhl (antimony) but Upton got another explanation of the meaning of the words as applied. He found that the entire race of pure-bred horses among the Anazah had black skins, no matter what the colour of their coats. It has come about, then, in course of time, that the Anazah have adopted the words, to express what we mean in speaking of "thoroughbreds." It is even more exclusive than our word. We speak of "thoroughbred" horses, "thoroughbred" cattle, "thoroughbred" dogs, meaning improved animals that are bred to a type, and have not varied from the type since the breed was established.

With the Bedouin *Keheilan* means but one thing, a horse (male) of pure Arab blood, and *Keheilet* a mare of pure Arab blood, whose lineage traces without break to one or more of the five mares of Salaman (*not* King Solomon, David's son), an Arab Sheik who lived B. C. 1635, fourth

in descent from Ishmael, son of Abraham.

The Bedouins use two other words that indicate especial quality among their Keheilans and Keheilets. *Asil* is equivalent to *noble*, or *distinguished*; *Hudud* means *approved*. This appellation is used in connection with a Keheilan, who is so well and widely known among the tribes, that many seek his service for their mares, and his name only needs to be mentioned.

Upton also learned that all pure-bred Arabians were included in *Al Khamseh*, which means *The Five*. That is, the Anazah Bedouin refuses to recognise any animal as a Keheilan or Keheilet that cannot trace direct to one of the five mares of Sheik Salaman.

Al Khamseh he found is divided into the following great families:

1—The descendants of Keheilet Ajuz.
2—The Manakhi family, with three sub-families.
3—The Hadban family, with five sub-families.
4—The Jelfon family, with two sub-families.
5—The Homdani family, with two sub-families.

The first two families are the *creme de la creme* of all horses, the descendants of Keheilet Ajuz being still further divided as follows:

1—The Seglawi family (Seglawi-Jedran, Seglawi-Obeiri, Seglawi-al-Abd.)
2—The Abeyan family, with seven secondary families.
3—The Dalman family, with four secondary families.
4—The Abu-Arkab family, with three secondary families

The following are also believed to belong to the same great family of Keheilet Ajuz:

5—The Rishon family, with two secondary families.
6—The Radban family, with three secondary families.
7—The Twaissan family, with two secondary families.
8—The Milliah family, with three secondary families.

The history of Keheilet Ajuz comes to us surrounded by a romantic halo thrown around her by the people among whom she was born and lived. It is related that a certain Sheik was flying from an enemy, mounted on his favourite mare. Arab warriors trust themselves only to mares, they will not ride a stallion in war. The said mare was at the time far along toward parturition; indeed she became

a mother when the fleeing horseman stopped for rest at noonday, the newcomer being a filly.

Being hard pressed the sheik was compelled to remount his mare and again seek safety in flight, abandoning the newborn filly to her fate. Finally reaching safety among his own people, great was the surprise of all, when, shortly after the arrival of the sheik on his faithful mare, the little filly, less than a day old, came into camp also, having followed her mother across miles of desert. She was immediately given into the care of an old woman of the tribe (*Ajuz*—an old woman), hence her name, Keheilet Ajuz, "the mare of the old woman," and grew to be the most famous of all the animals in the history of the breed. That such a mare really lived is not to be doubted, whatever credence we give to the story of her early life. Upton seems in doubt just where to place her. He says that some believe all the present families of Al Khamseh (the five) are descended from

Keheilet Ajuz, she being descended from one of the original Al Khamseh. Others believe that the line of Keheilet Ajuz, with her sub-families, and numerous single strains, is collateral with the other four Keheilets of Al Khamseh, and that all the families are not descended from Keheilet Ajuz. There seems testimony both ways.

Again some think the second family named as descended from Keheilet Ajuz, namely the Abeyan (Aba—*a cloak*—so named because they carry their tails so high that a sheyk once casting away his cloak in flight, it was caught on his mare's tail and carried along with him) with its seven sub-families, should not be considered by itself, though it is very choice (asil), but is really a part of the family of Seklawi Jedran.

The names of these last show how the sub-families come about. A man named Jedran had three mares, full sisters, of the Seklawi family. One he kept himself, so she was known as Seklawi Jedran.

Another he gave to his brother Obeiri, hence Seklawi-Obeiri. The third he gave to his slave, so Seklawi al Abd (of the slave). It is interesting to know that Seklawi al Abd proved a choicer strain than Seklawi Obeiri.

In closing his remarks on Keheilet Ajuz Upton says:

"Whether the era of Keheilet Ajuz was before or since the days of Rabiah, and if before, whether the horses inherited by Rabiah were solely from her, I cannot say. But it certainly appears to me that a special selection of horses does exist in the Anazah tribes, and their tenacity and persistency in keeping it pure and select is shown by their refusing to acknowledge or return to any strain which has departed from them into other hands."

The reader will have noticed that the Arabs always mention the mares from which their animals are descended, and so designate the families to which they belong. In this they are quite right. They speak with contempt of "the son of

a horse." Such an animal is Kadish (a mongrel), his dam is lacking in his pedigree, and no number of generations of pure blood, superimposed on an impure foundation, can wash away the stain of an impure mare at the bottom of the pedigree. But a Keheilan is a different proposition; he is the son of a mare, a Keheilet, and no mare among the Anazah is allowed to be bred, excepting in the presence of witnesses, who can testify that her offspring is a Keheilan, son of a Keheilet.

This founding a family on a mare rather than a stallion is a certain guarantee against mongrelisation; and the Anazah do not recognise the possibility of a taint ever being covered by the intervention of never so many pure-bred sires. They look with contempt on even the best English thoroughbred, since there is not one of them whose family is not lacking in some of its female lines.

The English have an expression, "as thoroughbred as Eclipse." Yet Eclipse had 70% of unknown blood in his veins.

CHAPTER IV

How Some Arab Horses Have Been Obtained

AS ALREADY noted, the journeys and subsequent writings of the Blunts and Major Upton have done much to enlighten the world at large concerning Arab history and the breeding methods of the Bedouins. Through their agency, also, came to England many pure Arabs, indeed nearly all the pure bred mares that were acquired from the desert by reason of the civil wars in Arabia just preceding and following the Russo-Turkish conflict of the late seventies. One other channel only through which mares were obtained was the purchases and breedings of Abbas Pasha, Khedive of Egypt. He realised the value of pure Arab blood in horses, and spent money like water in getting the

best that could be had, both from the Anazah in the upper desert, and also from Nejd. In one instance, having bought a mare of rare strain in Nejd, and thinking her too old to make the journey to the seacoast by using her own legs, Abbas sent a bullock cart for her, bringing her one thousand five hundred miles on wheels.

All of these, Upton, the Blunts, and Abbas Pasha, got stallions also, as did Hon. Miss Ethelred Dillon and others, while a number of valuable animals were taken to India by the Arab horse dealers of Bombay, Abdur Rhaman, Eyssa bin Curtis and Eyd et Tenimi, who sold them to British officers and Indian Rajahs for racing purposes. We owe the mares, however, to Upton, the Blunts, and Abbas. When the last named was deposed, his breeding stud was continued for some time by Ali Pasha Sherif, and on the breaking up of the stud the choicest animals were purchased by the Blunts, who, in addition to the Crabbet Park

stud in England, continue the breeding of Arab horses at Heliopolis, near Cairo, Egypt, under the superintendence of Sheik Obeid, to the present day.

As descendants of many of these animals have come to America from 1888 to the present time, it will be of interest to note some of the most valuable individuals and trace their antecedents and subsequent history. We have already noted that all Arab breedings are founded on the female line, to the extent that if a foal is offspring of a stallion and a mare of different families, it takes the family name of its dam, not its sire, we therefore will first consider the mares.

The first time Upton visited Arabia he secured three animals, two mares, Zuleika and Haidee, and the stallion Yataghan. Zuleika produced one colt foal named Symmetry, then died. Yataghan was bred to Haidee and then sold to the antipodes. Haidee produced one foal, Naomi, then she died also.

After the death of Major Upton, Naomi

was bought by Rev. F. F. Vidal of Needham Market, Suffolk, an enthusiastic admirer of the Arabian horse, who owned her for several years, and bred four foals from her. In 1888 Mr. Vidal sold Naomi to Mr. Randolph Huntington of Rochester, New York, who afterwards removed to Oyster Bay, Long Island, where Naomi died at the age of twenty-two years.

Naomi produced the following offspring:

In England, 1. ch. h. Gomussa, by Kars.
2. ch. m. Kushdil, by Kars.
3. ch. m. Nazli, by Maidan.
4. b. m. Naama, by El Emir.

In America, 5. ch. h. Anazah, by Leopard.
6. & 7. (a mare and stallion by a trotting horse!)
8. ch. h. Nejd, by Anazah, her own son.
9. ch. h. Khaled, by Nimr, her grand son.
10. ch. m. Naomi II, by Nimr, her grandson.
11. ch. m. Narkeesa, by Anazah, her son.
12. ch. m. Naressa, by Anazah, her son.

On his second journey Upton secured five animals whose families are recorded pages 386, 387, and 388 of his "Glean-

ings from the Desert of Arabia." The pedigrees of the two horse colts and of one of the mares are certified under seal by Suleiman ibn Mirshid, of one mare by Jedäan ibn Mahaid, and of the other mare by both Suleiman and Jedäan.

Of these, the only mare to produce offspring was Kesia, a bay mare, a "Keheilet of Nowak," imported "in foal by a hudud Seylwi al Abd." This mare produced in 1876, in Hon. Henry Chaplain's stable at Blankney, the bay mare Kesia II.

The offspring of Kesia II. were:

1. 1887, ch. m. Nowagich, by Hadeed.
2. 1888, b. h.
3. 1889, b. h.
4. 1890, ——?
5. 1891, b. h. Imamzada, by Imam.
6. 1892, ch. m. Dabeh, by Hadeed.
7. 1893, ch. m. Mimosa, by Mameluke,
8. 1894, ch. m. Shabaka, by Mameluke,
9. 1895, ch. m. ? by Mameluke.

Kesia II. was struck by lightning in 1898 and killed. She was the property of Hon. Miss Dillon.

The horse colts brought in 1875 by Upton were Joktam, that was sold to Australia for £1,000, a Keheilan Tamri and Ishmael that was kept by Mr. Chaplin.

Kesia had no offspring by a pure Arab horse other than Kesia II, though she produced, in 1878, a chestnut filly by the great Derby winner Hermit, as reprehensible an act in breeding as coupling Naomi with a trotting stallion.

The first visit of the Blunts to Arabia resulted in their bringing to England with them three mares—rather they were forwarded after them by Mr. Skene—Hagar, Sherifa, and a chestnut mare, Säadah Togan.

Hagar was perhaps the best mare, certainly one of the best, that ever came out of the desert. Lady Anne Blunt says of her:

"Endurance of fatigue on the road and hardiness under want of food are qualities that may always be reckoned on in buying an Arab horse, no matter what his

looks or what his pedigree; but speed is exceptional, and confined to the best strains of blood. Hagar, as we called her, was of the Keheilan Ajuz breed, the fastest, the stoutest, and the most English looking of them all. When purchased, she was in very poor condition, having just gone through the severe training of a campaign. She was bred by the Gomussa, the most notable of the horse-breeding tribes, had passed from them to the Roala, and had now been captured and ridden some two hundred miles in hot haste for sale at Aleppo. She was a five year old mare, a bay, with black points. We never met anything in our travels which could compete with her over a distance, and she has often run down foxes, and even hares, without assistance; carrying thirteen stone (182 lbs.) on her back. She was of a mild, gentle temper, and always went smoothly on, without fret or worry, and with the long low stride of an English race horse. She never galloped better than when she seemed worn out with work. She had the advantage, too, for Wilfrid, of being tall, fifteen hands—an unusual height among Arabians."

Lady Blunt's book, "The Bedouin Tribes of the Euphrates," is full of the praises of Hagar's performances, and one of the best was after having been ridden more than twelve hundred miles in three months of travel in the desert, from Aleppo to Deyr, Bagdad, through Mesopotamia to Shergat, then west again across the Euphrates and to Tadmar. It was when they turned back to meet Mr. Skene at Arak, after having started from Tadmar to join Jedäan in the desert.

"It was still nearly dark when we mounted, but we would not wait longer than for the rise of the morning star, and started at a gallop as soon as we had it for a guide. The Zaptiehs on their tired horses made a show of accompanying us, declaring it was impossible they should allow us to go alone. But Hagar had quite other ideas, and after the first two miles they dropped behind and were lost to sight. And now began the longest gallop I ever took in my life. It was fifteen miles to Arak, and we never

drew rein till we got to the foot of the hill behind which the village stands. . . . For the first few miles my mare behaved very well, going on at her easy stride without unnecessary hurry, and allowing Tamarisk to keep more or less beside her; but after this, although she was not in the least excited, she would not be kept at any reasonable pace. She does not mind uneven ground, full of Jerboa holes, and went faster and faster, till soon Tamarisk and Wilfrid were as much out of the race as the soldiers were, and yet she would not be steadied. It was only when we came to the hills and very broken stony ground, fully twelve miles from where we started, that I got a pull at her, and at last stopped her. . . . We were just forty-five minutes doing the twelve miles. . . . The last two miles we travelled at a more sober pace, and the sun appeared as we rode in through the stone gateway of Arak."

No wonder she brought Hagar to England as a brood mare! There she produced the following:

Offspring of Hagar.

1. 1880, b. h. Hadramant, by Kars.
2. 1881, ch. m. Halfa, by Kars.
3. 1883, b. m. Hijaz, by Pharaoh .
4. 1884, b. m. Harik, by Kars.
5. 1885, b. m. (died) by Rataplan.
6. 1886, b. h. Himyarite, by Kars.
7. 1888, b. h. Hafiz, El Emir.
8. 1889, br. m. Zem Zem, El Emir.
9. 1891, b. h. Havileh, by Imam,
10. 1892, b. h. Hail, by Jamrood.
11. 1895, ch. h. Sohail, by Jamrood.
12. 1896, b. m. Hamada, by Imamzada.
13. 1897, b. h. Hauran, by Jezail.

Hagar died in 1898, twenty-five years of age. The chestnut mare Saädah Togan bought at Deyr is said to have been sold to Miss Dillon under the name of Zenobia but we have no record of her offspring. Hagar also had been owned and used for breeding purposes for a number of years by Miss Dillon, whose property she was at the end.

Sherifa, the white mare was a very marked animal, "a white Hamdani Simri purchased for us by Mr. Skene at Aleppo." She was bred in Nejd, and was given by Ibn Saoud, Emir of Riad, in 1873, to the

ZEM ZEM
Daughter of Hagar

Turkish governor of Mecca. He brought her to Aleppo and gave her in turn to the chief Ulema there, who used her only as a brood mare and to carry him once a day to the mosque. Lady Blunt says she had "the most extraordinarily beautiful head ever seen, and the sweetest of tempers."

The full list of her offspring cannot be known, as she had foals both in Arabia and after coming to England. In the latter country her blood is highly prized, not only that through her daughters, Sherezade and Shibboleth, but also at the present day where her grand-daughters, Shieka and Shibine, the first a daughter of Shiraz, the second a daughter of Shohba, represent her in the Crabbet Arabian Stud.

The Blunts have owned and bred so many pure Arabs since they first became interested in them in 1877 that it would be a long list were all the animals named. In 1905 they had about a hundred and twenty-five in the Crabbet Stud, besides many others in Egypt. A few more of

their mares, however, deserve at least passing mention.

Rodania, dam of Rose of Sharon, Rosemary, Rose of Jericho, and others. This mare, far famed among the tribes of the "Hamad," was the much prized property of Beneyeh Ibn Shäalan, of the Roala tribe of the Anazah. She was a chestnut Keheilet Ajuz of the Rodan strain, bred by Ibn Rodan of the Roala tribe. Sotäam Ibn Shäalan, supreme Sheik of the tribe when visited by the Blunts in March 1878, took her from his cousin Beneyeh by unfair means, her theft being the occasion of a feud between the two. War breaking out between the Sebäa and Roala tribes, Beneyeh refused to help Sotäam, the Roala were badly beaten, and they lost much plunder of camels and mares, including Rodania. She was taken by Tais Ibn Sharban of the Gormussa tribe of the Sebäa Anazah, from whom the Blunts bought her in 1881.

Bint Helwa, a white Seglawieh Jedranieh of the strain of Ibn Sudan of the

MARES AND FOALS AT CRABBETT PARK

Johara (sister to the " broken-legged mare ") in the centre ; Rose of Sharon to the extreme right

Roala tribe. This is the famous "broken-legged mare," now to be seen at Crabbet Park. When visiting this stud in September 1905, the writer had first one and then another particularly attractive animal pointed out as the offspring of "the broken-legged mare." Finally he asked, "What is the broken-legged mare, and where is she?" "You shall see," said Lady Anne Blunt, leading the way to a box stall, of which Bint Helwa was the sole occupant. Here we saw a broken-legged mare sure enough. Were it not for her injury she is a beauty, pure white, with a head such as Schreyer would seek as a model. But, her off fore leg! This was broken between the knee and shoulder so that it *wabbled* loosely. Her shoulder was also broken, and the gentle creature stands always on three legs, the fourth can support no weight, the toe just touches the ground, and when she would move about the mare rears a bit, hops around with the good front leg, dragging the poor useless member.

The exclamation was spontaneous, "For heaven's sake how long has that mare been in that condition?" "Oh, for eight years," answered Lady Blunt. Then she told the story. Bint Helwa had come from the Egyptian stud with two other mares, and the three turned to pasture together on arrival in England. In the evening the other two came up to the stables, Bint Helwa was missing. On searching, she was found in a ditch. She had jumped the enclosing fence of the pasture, landed in the ditch so that her leg and shoulder were terribly broken, and the other mares following had jumped on top of her, breaking two of her ribs. As she was within six weeks of foaling it was decided not to destroy her, but take her to the stable and try to save the foal. The mare was gotten out on to a drag, pulled as gently as possibly to her box stall, suspended in slings, and cooling applications made to the injured parts. The breaks were too extensive to knit, but such was the soundness of her health

and constitution that the days passed and no rise in her temperature ensued. When the day came for her foal to be born, she was lowered gently in the stall, the little one came into the world all right, she made good recovery, *and since that time has bred seven perfect foals.* Now in 1906, the broken-legged mare is nineteen years old, and she is due to foal this spring. This authentic history of a mare that is to be seen by any visitor to Crabbet Stud is a tale of endurance and soundness that might lead us to give credence even to the tradition associated with the beginnings of life of the famous Keheilet Ajuz. If there is a finer Arab stallion in the world than Harb, the six year old son of Bint Helwa and Mesaoud, the writer would go a great distance to see him.

Queen of Sheba is the name of a bay mare foaled in 1875, which Lady Anne Blunt saw and coveted at the time she was with the Sebäa Bedouins in March, 1878. At that time the mare belonged to Beteyen Ibn Mirshid, who had succeed-

ed his murdered cousin Suleiman Ibn Mirshid, Upton's friend, as supreme Sheik of the Gomussa. She was bred by Erheyen Ibn Alian of the Gomussa tribe, was an Abeyeh Sherrakieh, and was sold by her breeder, on shares, to Beteyen. At the time of their visit the Blunts sought by every means to buy the filly, and the account of their efforts as told in "The Bedouin Tribes of the Euphrates" is highly interesting. The mare is thus described by Lady Blunt:

"But our chief delight was to follow, when Beteyen Ibn Mirshid, Sheyk of the Gomussa, rode up to Mohammed Dukhi's tent to pay a visit. He had just purchased from one of his people the 'bridle half' of a three year old mare, an Abeyeh Sherrak, and was riding her home when he heard we were at Mohammed Dukhi's tent. The mare is so much more remarkable than the man that I must describe her first. She is a dark bay standing fifteen hands or over. Her head, the first point an Arab looks to, is a good one, though I have seen

finer, but is perfectly set on, and the *mitbakh*, or join of the head and neck, would give distinction to any profile. Her neck is light and well arched, the wither high, the shoulder well sloped, and the quarter so fine and powerful that it is impossible she should be otherwise than a very fast mare. Her length of limb above the hock is remarkable, as is that of the pastern. She carries her tail high. as all well bred Arabians do, and there is a neatness and finish about every movement which reminds one of a fawn or a gazelle. We all agreed that she is incomparably superior to anything we have seen here or elsewhere (Mr. Skene was of the party at the time) and would be worth a king's ransom, if kings were still worth ransoming."

They did not get the mare at that time, but Mr. Skene secured her for them later at a cost of £240 ($1,200); and when they returned to Damascus the next winter to make a start for their "Pilgrimage to Nejd," they heard "all that had happened in the desert during the summer. First of all, the sensation that

has been caused there by our purchase of Beteyen's mare, which after all we secured and the heart-burnings and jealousies raised thereby."

Asfura, daughter of Beteyen's mare, and several of her offspring are to be found at Crabbet Park to-day. Astraled, the son of Queen of Sheba* and Mesaoud, foaled 1900, is the only horse in the entire collection that is perhaps more attractive than Harb, son of Bint Helwa.

Another mare brought from Arabia by Lady Anne Blunt that should be mentioned was Basilisk, a grey Seglawieh Jedranieh of the strain of Ibn ed Derri. Basilisk was bought by the Duke of Westminster for breeding to thoroughbred horses, and produced for him some winners of races in the best of company.

Wild Thyme, a bay mare foaled 1876, which they bought of the Baggara tribe of the Euphrates, was the only animal secured by either the Blunts or Upton,

*The name given to Beteyen's mare by the Blunts.

Photograph by Schreiber

ANTIKA, 4 YEARS

Dam—Asfura, daughter of Queen of Sheba (Betteyan's mare)
Sire—Mesaoud

of the coveted family of Ras el Fedawi, to which belonged the famous Darley Arabian. It has often been stated that he was a Manekhi Hedruj. Both Major Upton and Lady Anne Blunt say he was Ras el Fedawi. This is one of the subfamilies of Keheilet Ajuz, and the nearest Major Upton was able to secure was the bay mare Kesia, a Keheilet of Nowak, closely akin to the Ras el Fedawi. Upton says (Gleanings page 324): "Of the strain called Ras el Fedawi, of which family I understand was the Darley Arabian, we saw some mares in another tribe and in the hands of single Arabs, but I do not remember to have seen any in the Sabäah." The only one he could buy was so badly broken down that he would not take her.

Wild Thyme was bred to Kars, a bay Seglawi Jedran horse of the Ibn Sbeni strain, purchased at Aleppo by Mr. Blunt, and considered of very choice blood. Lady Anne Blunt ranks him as one of the most valuable horses they secured. The

offspring was Raschida, a very remarkable mare, still owned (1906) by Hon. Miss Dillon, who bought her, with Hagar, and Jedrania, besides other choice animals, from the Blunts.

Raschida is a bay mare, foaled 1883, a Ras el Fedawi, 15 hands high. She has won nineteen jumping prizes, besides one second prize in the hunter class at Blanford. She carried 13 stone (182 lbs) in the hunting field ten weeks before foaling, and is the only pure Arab mare in the Hunters' Improvement Stud Book, besides being registered in Weatherby's "General Stud Book," Vol. XV.

Offspring of Raschida.

1. 1887, b. m. Rommia, by El Emir.
2. 1889, b. m. Rakusheh, El Emir.
3. 1890, b. m. Rahatlakoum, by Gomussa.
4. 1891, b. m. Aziza, by El Emir.
5. 1893, b. h. Rasoul, by Imam.
6. 1894, b. m. Laili, by Jamrood.
7. 1895, b. h. Ras el Fedawi, by Havilah.
8. 1896, ch. f. (dead), by Volomel.
9. 1897, b. m. Riad, by Hail.
10. 1898, b. m. Raz-za-za, by Imamzada.
11. 1904, b. m. Mahal, by Imamzada.
12. 1905, b. m. Nessa, by Hauran.

RASCHIDA

Jedrania also proved one of the very valuable producers among the Arab mares of England. She was foaled in 1875, a Seglawi Jedranieh, bred by Ali Aga of Milich, at Deyr Hafa, on the Euphrates. Her dam was captured in war and given as a bribe to Ali Aga the Turkish-Pasha of Deyr, in whose possession she foaled Jedrania. From him the mare was purchased by Mr. Blunt.

Offspring of Jedrania.

1. 1881, ch, h. Jamschyd, by Abeyan el Khush.
2. 1882, ch. h. (dead) by Pharaoh.
3. 1884, b. m. Jebel Druz, by Kars.
4. 1885, b. m. Juniper, by Kars.
5. 1886, b. m. (dead), by Abeyran.
6. 1887, b. m. (dead), by Nizam.
7. 1888, b. m. Jedran, by El Emir.
8. 1891, b. h. (dead), Jebel Shammar.
9. 1893, b. h. Jezail, by Imam.
10. 1894, b. h. Jadoo, by Jamrood.
11. 1896, br. m. Yasimeen, by Imamzada.
12. 1898, b. h. Jezza, by Rasoul.

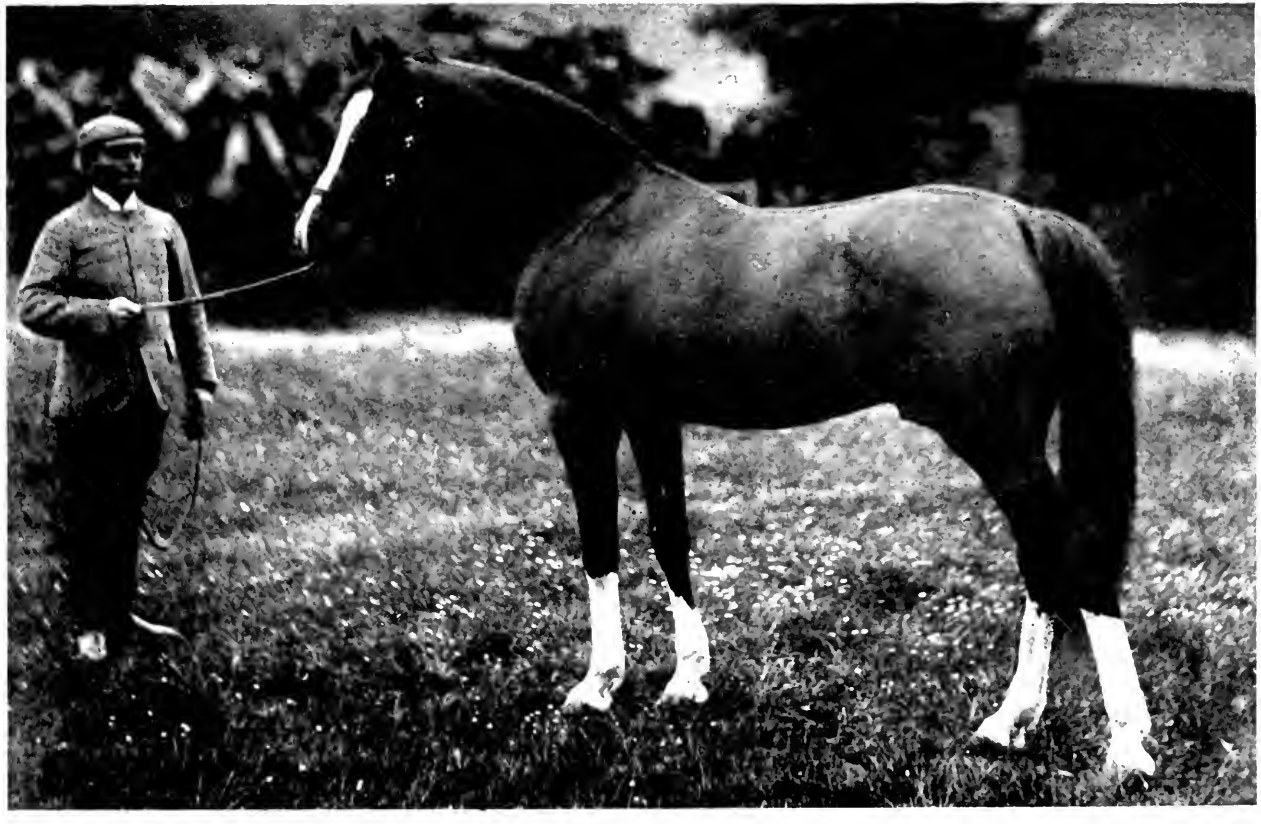
These are some of the fine mares that have been owned in England through the efforts of a few enthusiastic and persistent breeders. It will be noted

that they have produced sufficiently to account for King Edward's dominion being the source whence many other countries have been able to supply themselves with pure Arab blood.

A number of the choicest stallions also were brought by the Blunts, some from Arabia, others from the Abbas Pasha Stud, still others from Bombay. Among the best of the first was Kars, a very beautiful and impressive animal. Weatherby thus records him in Vol XIV of the General Stud Book:

"Kars, a bay horse (foaled 1874) a Seglawi Jedran of the Ibn Sbeni, purchased at Aleppo by W. S. Blunt, from Mahmoud Aga, chief of the irregulars. This blood is considered the best in the Syrian Desert."

Mesaoud is also a very choice Seglawi Jedran horse of Ibn Sudan's strain of the Roala Anazah, bred by Ali Pasha Sherif from a mare bought in the desert by Abbas Pasha. He won many prizes in England and on the continent, his blood



MESAOUD

saturates the animals now at Crabbet Park, and he was purchased in 1903 by the Russian Government for use in the Imperial Stud.

Rataplan was bought by Mr. Blunt in Bombay. Visiting India in 1882 to see the great races for Arab horses which had become established events in that country, he recognised in Rataplan a horse he had seen ridden in Arabia by Jedäan ibu Mahaid of whom mention has been made. Inquiry proved his identification accurate, the horse had been brought to Bombay by Abdur Rhaman after Jedäan's death, and was raced successfully, winning the following events:

Wellington, May 15, 1882, Arab Handicap, 1½ miles, 500 Rs., beating Snowdrop, Ruby, and Copenhagen.

Bangalore, July 18, 1882, Arabian Purse, 1½ miles, 500 Rs., beating Dictator, Copenhagen and Khusroo.

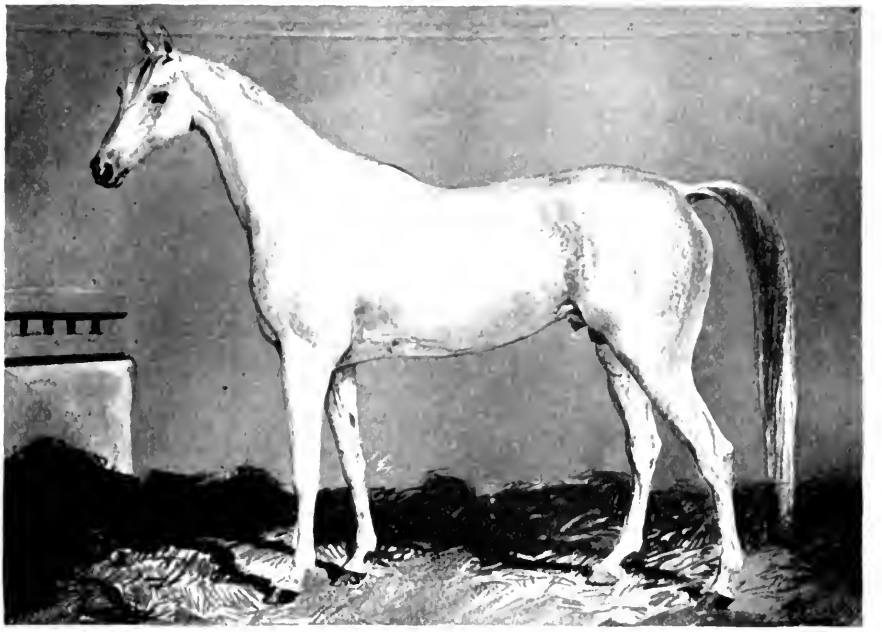
Bangalore, July 22, 1882, Winner's Handicap, 1¾ miles, 500 Rs., beating Dictator, Grey Warrior, Euphrates, and Copenhagen.

Baroda, Dec. 28, 1882, Gaekwar's Purse, 1½ miles, 800 Rs., beating Blotting Paper, Robin Grey, Duchess, Slug, Morar, Redoubt, and Reserved.

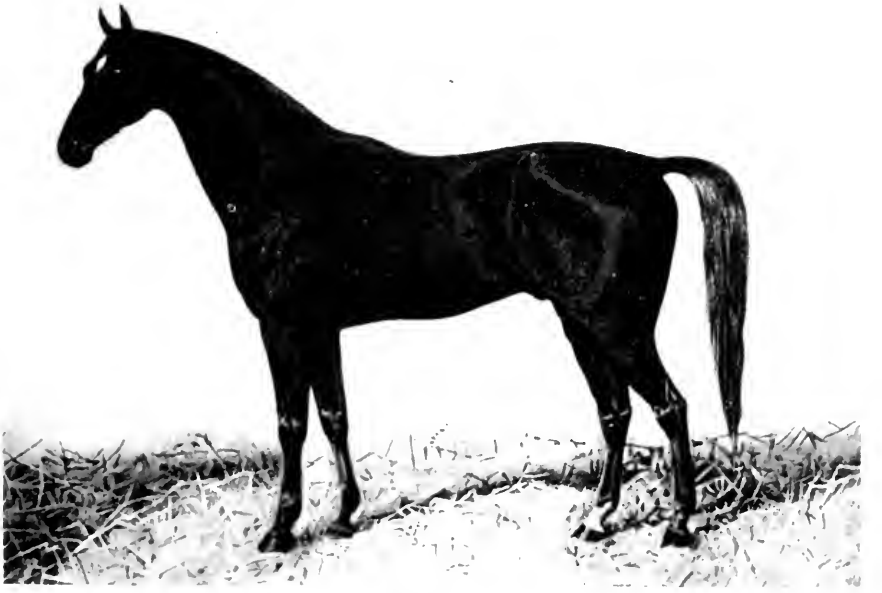
Mr. Blunt then bought Rataplan and shipped him to England for use in the Crabbet Stud.

Many other Arab horses greatly distinguished themselves in racing in India; but as they never came to England or the Continent of Europe have left no influence upon modern occidental horse breeding. A rapid enumeration is all the attention that can be given them in the present writing.

Greyleg won 51 races at Bombay, Mysore, and Bangalore between 1861 and 1868. Hermit won 34 races during the same period. Rex, Euclid, and Lanercost were also great winners. The demand for anything that could win races from the rich Rajahs who made racing their pastime, caused standing offers of fabulous prices at all times by British officers, and the demand brought a partial supply. In 1893 not less than 16,000 rupees were added to the stakes at the Calcutta meeting alone. To win such prizes the Maharajah of Cooch Behar paid R5,000 ($2,500)



GREYLEG



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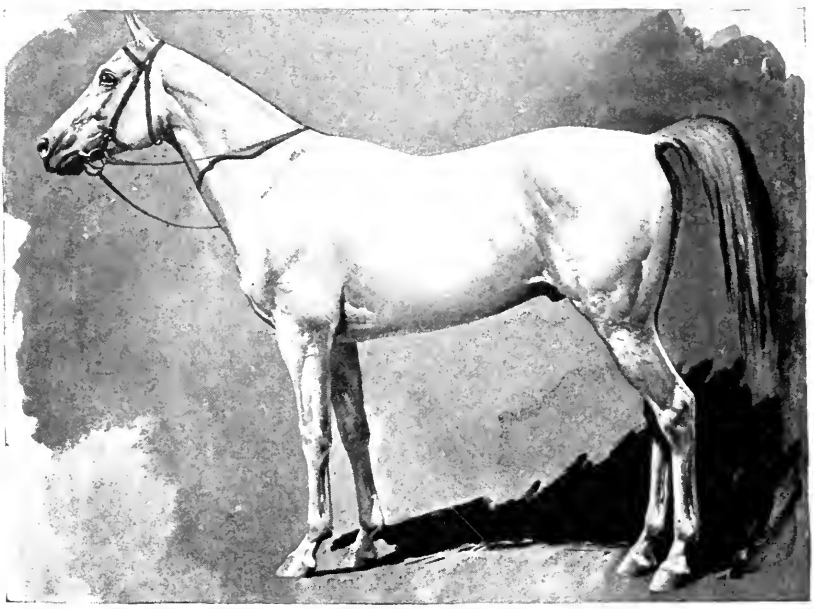


BLITZ

for Dominant, and R11,000 for Good Hope, while R30,000 were offered and refused for either Rex or Blitz. This last-named horse was certainly one of the greatest stake winners for his inches that the world has ever seen. Bought originally by Lieut. O'Farrell of the 6th Dragoons for R400 ($200) he *never was beaten.* After winning the Civil Service Cup for the second time, his owner and partners bought him in no less than fourteen pools, whose actual aggregate value was $60,000. Later, he was bought by Lord William Beresford, and used in the stud in England, to a limited degree. Afterward he passed into the possession of the Maharajah of Patiala, who took him back to India and used him for breeding. He is described by one who knew him well, in these words:

"He is for his size, the most remarkable animal ever foaled. He is milk white with black muzzle, which can be put in a pint pot. Weight makes no difference to him."

Another remarkable horse, who must be rated in the same class with Blitz, was Kismet. He was foaled in the desert in 1877, a Manakhi Hedruj, and taken to India by Abdur Rhaman, in 1882. In 1883–'84 he swept everything before him on the race track, never losing a race or heat, his total winnings for those seasons in India amounting to £30,000 ($150,000).

Kismet's Races in India

Bangalore, July 12, 1883, the Mysore Cup, 1¼ miles, carrying 139 lbs.

Bangalore, July 14, 1883, the Mysore Purse, 1½ miles, carrying 134 lbs.

Bangalore, July 19, 1883, Aga Khan's Purse, 1½ miles, carrying 134 lbs.

Poonah, Sept. 8, 1883, Aga Khan's Plate, 1¼ miles, carrying 126 lbs.

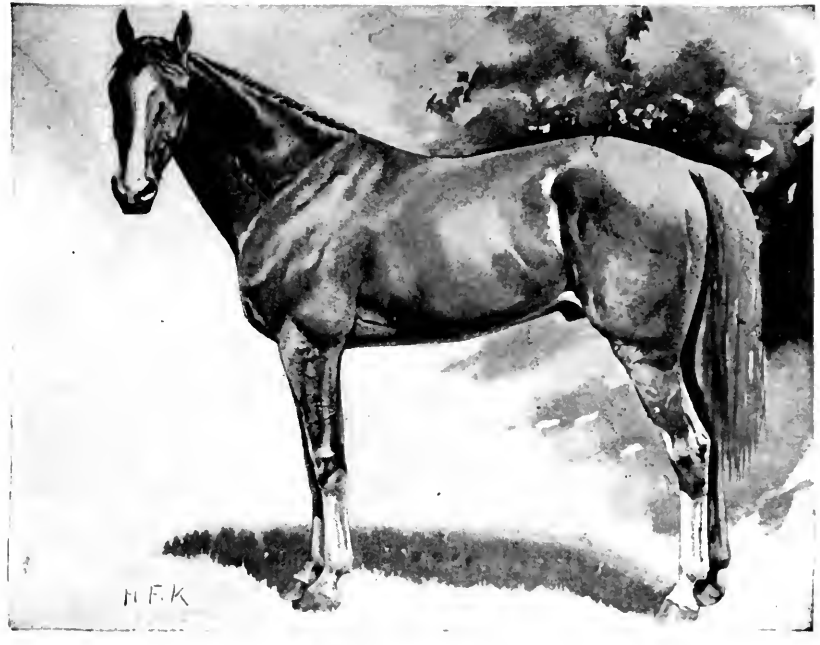
Poonah, Sept. 11, 1883, Aga Khan's Purse, 1¾ miles, carrying 131 lbs.

Hyderabad, Nov. 22, 1883 Deccan Handicap, 1½ miles, carrying 119 lbs.

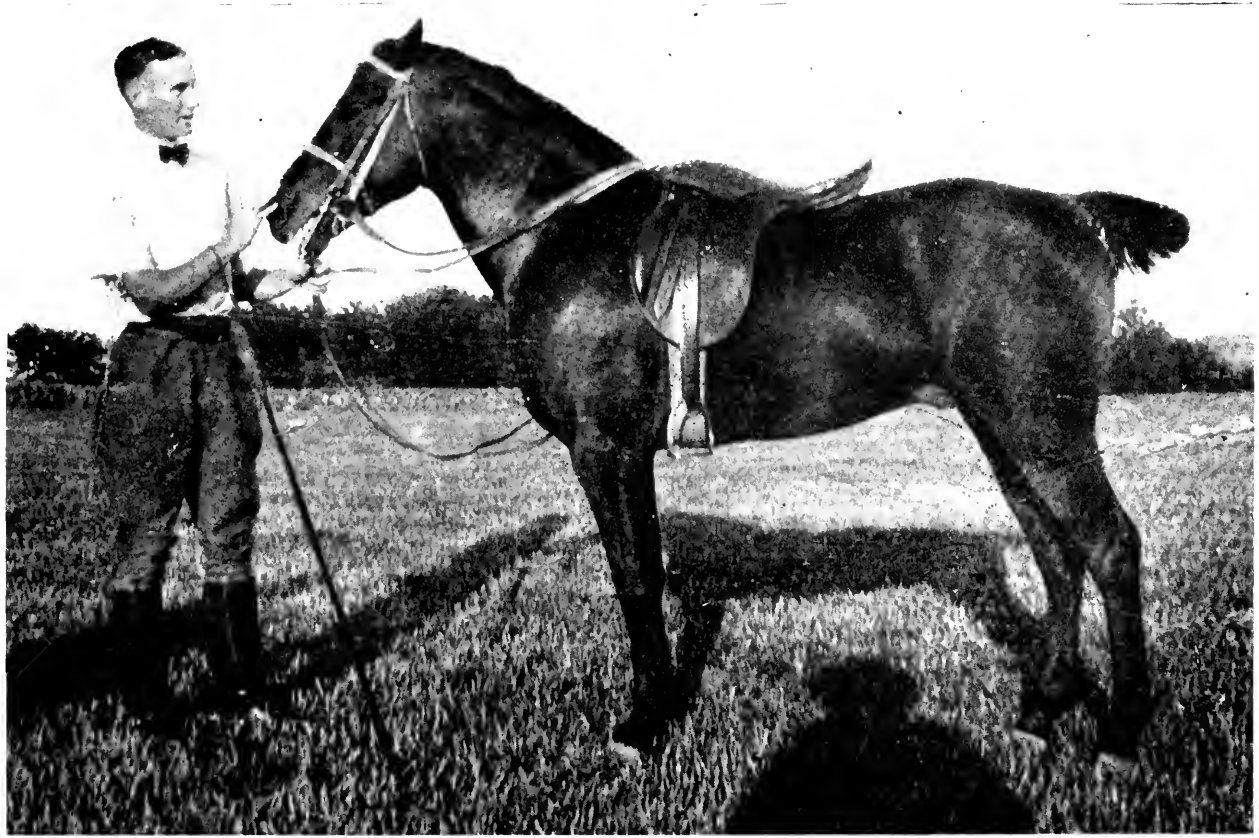
Bombay, Feb. 12, 1884, The Derby, 1½ miles carrying 136 lbs.

Bombay, Feb. 14, 1884, Aga Khan's Purse, 1½ miles, carrying 133 lbs

Immediately after this race Lieut. Broadwood brought Kismet to England,



KISMET

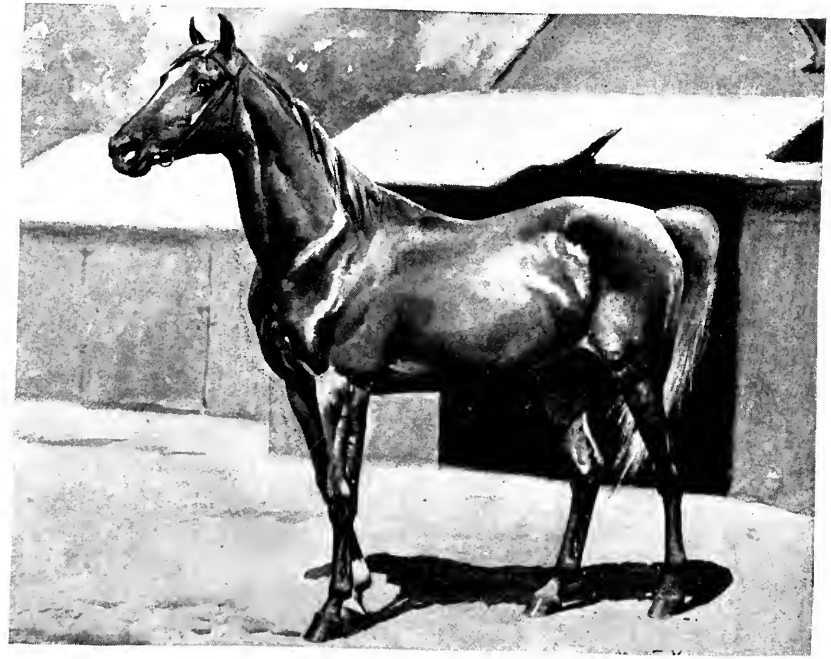


A TYPICAL POLO PONY. SIRE, KISMET

where he was owned by Col. R. D. Coyningham V. C. He landed after a tempestuous voyage in the latter part of April, and so confident was his owner of his prowess, that he matched him to run against Asil, without training, at Newmarket. Asil beat him in this race for the only time in Kismet's entire career. Twice afterward Kismet turned the tables on Asil, showing that it was lack of condition that lost him his first race with that horse. In 1885 Kismet was ridden at Newmarket by Fred Archer, who rode the Derby winner five different times, and he pronounced Kismet the gamest horse he ever rode. Such, also, was the opinion of Wood, who rode him in his races against Asil at Newmarket and Sandown Park. Both these races were for two miles, and Kismet won "hands down," carrying 126 pounds. After that he was bought by Hon. John Corbett, M. P., as a saddle horse, and he sold him to Rev. F. F. Vidal, who kept him in the stud until 1891, when he leased him to Mr. Ran-

dolph Huntington, of Oyster Bay, Long Island. After a long and stormy passage Kismet reached New York by Str. *Canada*, Nov, 11, 1891, only to die two hours after landing, of pleuro-pneumonia contracted on the voyage. This rather extended history of Kismet has been given because, though his untimely death was so serious a loss, he has had, and will continue to have, an important influence on horse breeding in America, two of his pure bred sons having come to this country in 1893, as will be noted later.

Maidan is the last of the great horses that came to England from Arabia through India, whose name can have our especial attention. Many who knew him, including Lady Anne Blunt and the Hon. Miss Dillon, place him even above Kismet, and the opinion is concurred in by others who knew him only by his offspring. Maidan was foaled in 1869 in Nejd, a chestnut (as was Kismet), said by some to have been a Manakhi Hedruj, though



MAIDAN AT 23

this was doubted by others because of his great beauty, the Manakhi being a family of rather plain appearance, though great race horses. He was brought to Bombay by Abdur Rhaman in 1871, and sold to Captain Johnstone, who immediately commenced racing him, though the colt was but two years old. Captain Fisher and Major Brough were also interested in Maidan; and as these English officers had tested him they were free in taking the long odds which were laid against him by the Australian sports who came to the races and were ready to lay against an untried colt. It is said that after Maidan won the Punjab Cup, the Australians had hardly money enough left to pay their passage home. For three years, from 1871 to 1874, Maidan continued his winning career, until no further matches could be made for him. Then, at 5 years of age, he was sold to Lieut. Col. Brownlow of the 72d Highlanders, as a charger. Brownlow was a heavyweight of nineteen stone (266 lbs.)

with his equipment, yet Maidan carried him for twelve years in campaigns through the mountainous regions of India and Afghanistan, until the soldier was killed in the fight at Kandahar, at the end of the famous forced march of Lord Roberts's Army from Cabul, three hundred miles distant. After carrying Brownlow for ten years Maidan won the Ganges Hog Hunt Cup, and also a four mile steeplechase across difficult country. At seventeen years of age, on the death of Brownlow, Maidan was bought by Lord Airlie who again put him to racing where he won a number of races both on the flat and steeplechases. He was then sold to Captain the Hon. Eustace Vesey, who bought him to take to England. Leaving India on the troopship *Jumna* Maidan got as far as Suez, where the ship met the expedition going to the relief of Suakim, where Osman Digna was harrassing the garrison, and was pressed into service as a transport for troops to Massowah, near the lower end of the Red Sea.

MAIDAN AT 23 YEARS OF AGE POSING FOR HIS PORTRAIT

So it happened that the old race horse and charger had his journey lengthened, to the degree that *he stood on his feet one hundred days* without once lying down, before he reached Marseilles. Yet Capt. Vesey raced him successfully at Pau, and afterward in England. He won a steeplechase when twenty-two years of age. When he had to be destroyed, because of a broken leg, at twenty-three, he was absolutely sound. In 1890 he was described in the London *Live Stock Journal*, as "fresh and well, with immense bone below the knee (he measured eight inches) and as clean in the legs as a four year old, notwithstanding the fact that he was hunted in Suffolk last year."

He was a very beautiful horse, the finest type of a high caste Arab, fifteen hands high. Maidan's blood is also to be found in the United States, though the U. S. Department of Agriculture decided that his daughter, from a purebred Ras al Fedawi Arab mare, and registered as thoroughbred in Weather-

bey's "General Stud Book," also, presenting the certificate of Weatherbey & Sons, must pay duty, *because the sire and dam of Maidan were not so registered*, though Maidan himself had been accepted and registered. The reason his sire and dam were not registered was that they lived and died in Nejd, and there was no occasion for them to be registered at the English Jockey Club.

HEIRESS AND HALF-BRED DAUGHTER, 4 MONTHS OLD

CHAPTER V

Arab Horses in America

CONTRARY to generally accepted opinion, many good Arabs have come to America, even from the early days. It cannot be doubted that they have imparted their good qualities to some of our most useful horses, the influence of Arab blood being especially noticeable in the old Morgans, that of the Barb in the descendants of Henry Clay.

General Washington's famous grey charger was an entire son of the desert-born horse Ranger, imported to New London, Connecticut, about 1765. He was a dapple grey, fifteen hands high, of the finest form, symmetry, and finish. As Washington was six feet, three inches tall, and weighed more than two hundred pounds, it is evident that the little son of Ranger must have been a weight carrier.

It is related that Washington had his attention attracted to the superiority of the horses ridden by the Connecticut cavalry when he took command of the Continental army at Boston. Calling "Light Horse Harry Lee" into his counsels, they found that these were sons and daughters of Ranger. Captain Lindsay was thereupon sent to the Connecticut valley to purchase the horse, and he was taken to Virginia where he was afterward known as the Lindsay Arabian. The horse that General Israel Putnam rode when he galloped down the steep declivity of a hundred steps at Greenwich, Connecticut, later in the war, so escaping the British, was own brother to Washington's charger.

The four famous grey stallions that drew Lady Washington's coach to Philadelphia when Congress convened, were bred on the Washington plantation at Mount Vernon, and were half-bred Arabians.

In the first volume of "Bruce's American Stud Book" we find a list of no less

than forty-two Arab horses imported into the United States during the century between 1760 and 1860, besides twelve Arab mares, four Barb horses, and two Barb mares. Since that time the number has been increased greatly.

Mention has already been made of the Keene Richards importations. It was in 1854–'55 that he was induced to go to Arabia for horses, backed by the New Orleans Jockey Club, accompanied by Troyon, the animal painter, who was to assist him in making his selections. He went among the Anazah tribes and brought back with him some very valuable animals of the choicest families. In this country they failed of the recognition they deserved for many reasons, one being the unfortunate time of their arrival. The great Civil War was brewing, and people had their attention drawn to more serious questions than horse breeding in 1857, when the Keene Richards Arabs reached Kentucky. The best of his horses was bred to but five mares, yet

one of them produced the great race horse Limestone, and another the dam of Dorsey's Golddust. General W. T. Withers, one of the most successful breeders of trotters in Kentucky, had two or three mares in his stud sired by one of the Keene Richards Arabs, that he considered the choicest of any he had. In 1861 the Civil War burst upon the land, and the Keene Richards's Arabs were scattered and lost, as were other valuable animals of other breeds.

It is told that after the battle of Pittsburgh Landing (Shiloh) the Confederate General Breckenridge went to Georgetown, Kentucky, to Mr. Richards, begging conveyance to Virginia as quickly as possible, as the Federal troops were pursuing him. Richards had nothing to offer but a pair of three year old half-bred Arab fillies. These he hitched to a buckboard and started. The Federals pursued on thoroughbred horses, but though they gained for a while, their bolt was soon shot, and they had to draw rein.

The Arab fillies never stopped until they had Breckenridge safely within the Confederate lines. It is doubtful if he would have proved a good witness for the case of those who prate about the failure of the Keene Richards's Arabs.

Other notable Arabian horses that came to America were the two, Mäaneke Hedragi and Siklany Gidran (note these names), sent as a present to Hon. Wm. H. Seward when Lincoln's Secretary of State, Umbark, sent to President Van Buren, Linden Tree and Leopard, presented by the Sultan of Turkey Abdul Hamid II., to General U. S. Grant. The so-called Arabs or Barbs brought to New York in 1905, said to be intended as a present for President Roosevelt, need no attention. They were a fraud. Mr. Roosevelt would have none of them, and when sold by auction to pay their feed bills at Hoboken, they did not bring the value of the oats they had eaten. It is such beasts as they, when called Arabs, that

discredit the entire race with the uninformed.

Mention has not been made of a considerable consignment of Arabians, both mares and stallions, brought over by Commodore Jesse D. Elliott, U. S. N., in 1838. They were procured by him during a cruise to the coast of Syria in 1837, on the frigate *Constitution.* They are registered in Bruce's American Stud Book, but the disposition made of them is not noted.

Since 1885 quite a number of really high-caste Arabs have come to the United States. Naomi, foaled in Upton's stable in England, her dam brought from Arabia on his first visit, was imported in 1888. She was a very valuable mare, well known and esteemed in England. The list of Naomi's offspring has already been given. She greatly enriched the horse breeding of America by her blood, and died full of years and honours.

In 1893 Mr. Huntington bought Nazli,

GARAVEEN

daughter of Naomi and Maidan. She is still owned by the Huntington Stud at Oyster Bay, and has produced some most valuable animals. Two of these, a son and a daughter, both by her half-brother Anazah (son of Naomi and Gen. Grant's Leopard) are owned by Mr. Herman Hoopes, of Philadelphia. Mr. Huntington also imported on same ship with Nazli, two pure bred sons of Kismet, Nimr, son of Nazli, and Garaveen, whose dam was Kushdil, another daughter of Naomi, Kushdil's sire having been Kars.

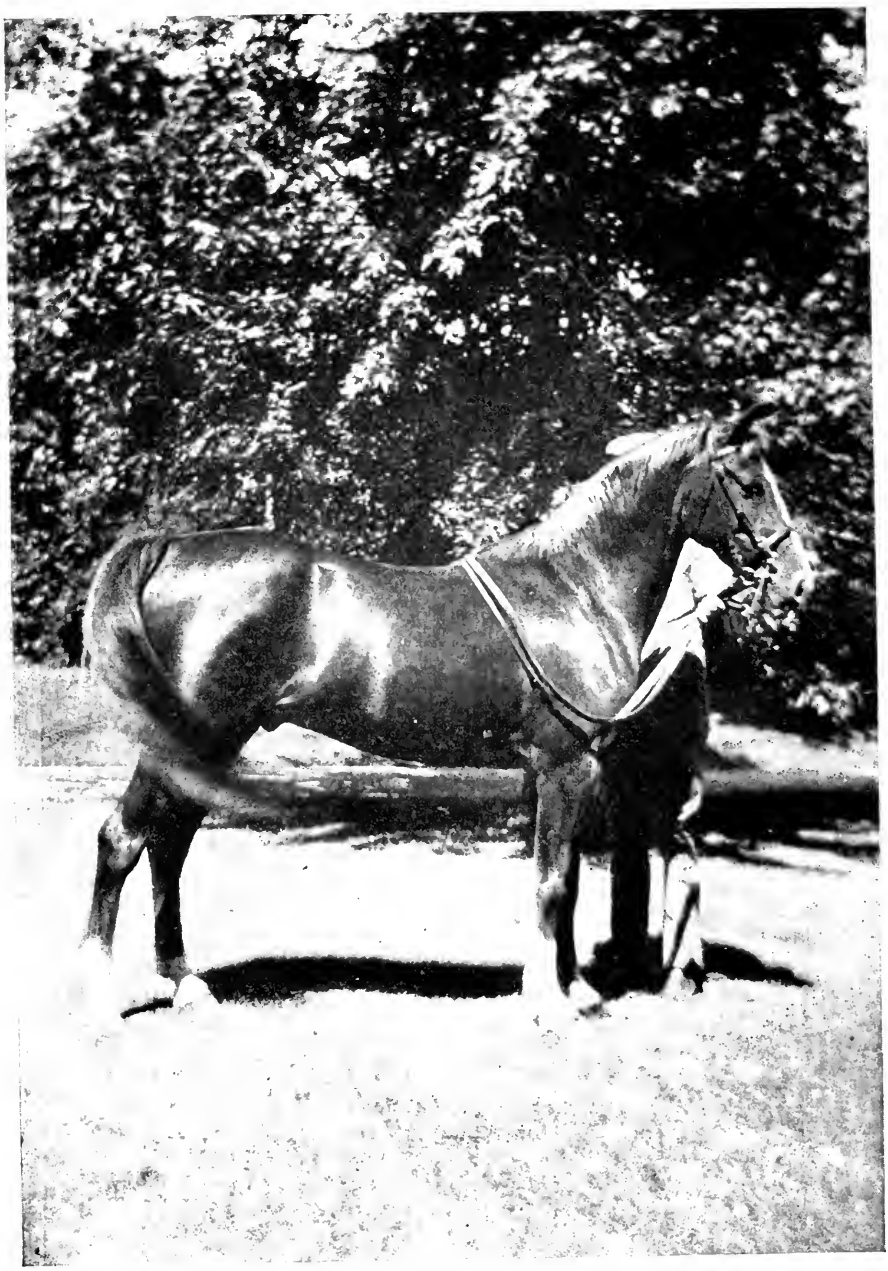
Garaveen was bought by Mr. J. A P. Ramsdell of Newburgh, who also bought Ras Aloula and Rakusheh from Miss Dillon, and Shahwan from Mr. W. S. Blunt. He also secured a white mare from an Arab Sheik who brought her to the Columbian Exposition at Chicago in 1893. Her breeding is not known, and she lacks registration; yet Nejme bears every indication of being a high caste Arab mare.

This, however, is by no means a safe way to judge of a horse's breeding. A chestnut mare by Maidan, imported from England by the writer in 1898, has the most perfect conformation and courage, such as would cause her to be judged a pure-bred Arab in the choicest company. No other son or daughter of Maidan can surpass her in beauty of head, loftily carried tail, perfect form and symmetry. Yet she is only a half-bred Arab; her dam was a thoroughbred English racing mare. She has distinguished herself in the hunting fields of England, France, Algeria, America, won first prize in jumping at the Crystal Palace, London, in 1896, and has bred eight beautiful foals. If appearance and performance were all that need be sought for as credentials, Heiress would pass for a pure-bred Arab of the very highest type. If further evidence were needed that appearance is not always a safe ground for judging a horse to be pure-bred, a son of Garaveen owned by Mr. Ramsdell, whose dam was a polo

Photograph by Schreiber

HEIRESS

Daughter of Maidan; her dam a thoroughbred mare by Herbertstown
Seventeen years old, has hunted in England, France, Algeria, America. First prize in jumping class at Crystal Palace, London, 1896. Dam of 8 foals



HALF-BRED GELDING BY GARAVEEN

pony mare, and in the same stable with Nejme, may also be cited. Nothing could be more beautiful than this chestnut gelding, yet we know that he is but a half-bred.

Speaking of the necessity for care in making certain of the origin of horses claiming to be pure bred Arabians, Lady Anne Blunt writes:

"As it is a fundamental principle at the Crabbet Arabian Stud that no stallion, however individually excellent, is eligible for service if there is any doubt *or lack of information* as to a true Arabian descent, it follows that at this stud any 'not proven' element must remain an insuperable objection. I have heard of disastrous results from the neglect of this rule, for example from Prince Sangusco, who told me of the immense trouble he had to eliminate the blood of horses he had accepted on insufficient testimony.

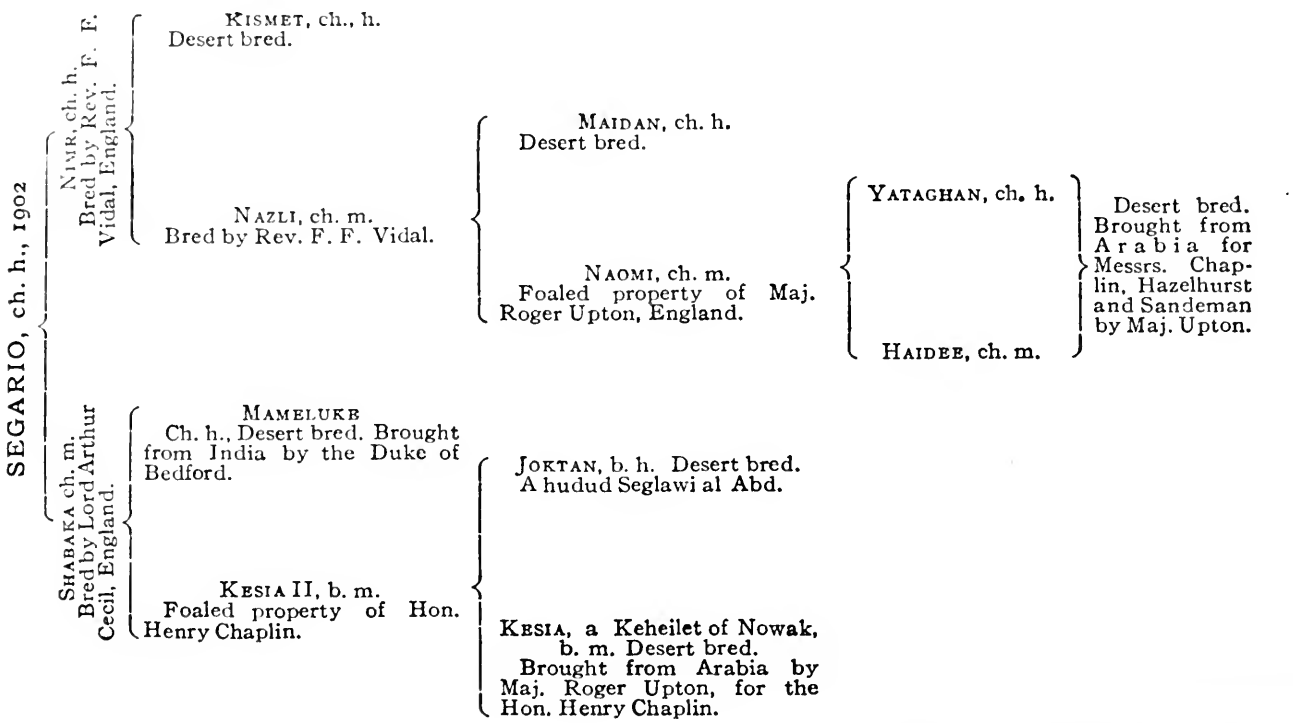
"On the other hand there are cases where, the risk having been run, results have justified the experiment, as any flaw in blood is sure to come out in

descendants sooner or later, and if results are persistently good they may practically be treated as proof. But that takes years."

Mr. W. S. Forbes, of Boston, about the same time, brought two Arabs, the chestnut mare Jamilla and the bay stallion Bedr, from the Crabbet Arabian Stud, with the great race horse Meddler, to this country. Hon. W. C. Whitney also imported a bay horse from Bombay somewhat later, and Mr. Eustis got the bay mares Bushra and Backaret from Mr. Blunt in 1900.

In 1898 there came from Miss Dillon's Pudlicote Stud the two mares Raksh and Shabaka. The former was a most beautiful animal, a daughter of Maidan, her dam by El Emir from Rachida, and so of the much prized Ras al Fedawi strain. Her death, leaving no progeny, was a serious loss. Shabaka was bred by Lord Arthur Cecil, her sire the Duke of Bedford's Mameluke, her dam Mr. Chaplin's Kesia II, already mentioned in

RAKSH


SEGARIO, ch. h., 1902
NIMR, ch. h. Bred by Rev. F. F. Vidal, England.
KISMET, ch., h. Desert bred.
NAZLI, ch. m. Bred by Rev. F. F. Vidal.
MAIDAN, ch. h. Desert bred.
NAOMI, ch. m. Foaled property of Maj. Roger Upton, England.
YATAGHAN, ch. h.
HAIDEE, ch. m.
Desert bred. Brought from Arabia for Messrs. Chaplin, Hazelhurst and Sandeman by Maj. Upton.
SHABAKA ch. m. Bred by Lord Arthur Cecil, England.
MAMELUKE Ch. h., Desert bred. Brought from India by the Duke of Bedford.
KESIA II, b. m. Foaled property of Hon. Henry Chaplin.
JOKTAN, b. h. Desert bred. A hudud Seglawi al Abd.
KESIA, a Keheilet of Nowak, b. m. Desert bred. Brought from Arabia by Maj. Roger Upton, for the Hon. Henry Chaplin.

Photograph by Schreiber

SEGARIO, 4 YEARS

Bred, owned and ridden by the author

connection with Major Upton's importations.

She is dam of the very beautiful horse Segario, whose sire was Nimr. In 1905 Shabaka was sold to the proprietors of the Huntington Stud, together with the grand Russian Arab Gouniead, bred at the Imperial Stud at Streletsky, and sent to America by the Russian Government in 1893. Shabaka foaled a very promising filly by Gouniead in February 1906.

In 1905 Miss Dillon sent the bay horse Häil, a son of the famous mare Hagar. Häil is 15.3. His sire was Jamrood, son of Maidan and Jerud.

Two months after Häil, came the bay stallion Imamzada, son of Imam and Kesia II. Imam was a bay son of El Emir, that Miss Dillon bought at Damascus, a Manakhi ibu Sbeyli, and Ishtar, a white mare, one of the first bought in the desert by the Blunts. For ten years Imamzada has been distinguished in the Midland Counties of

England, as a hunter and a sire of hunters. He is about 15.2 and of immense bone, measuring more than eight inches below the knee. Imam also greatly distinquished himself in the hunting field with the Heythorpe Hounds, calling forth most laudatory notice in the London sporting papers for his jumping, manners, and endurance. At the Oxfordshire Show he won a prize of £40 in a jumping contest, where he cleared six feet. He was also a fine horse in harness. In the autumn of 1894 Miss Dillon drove him to Cirencestor Fair, twenty-eight miles, in two hours and thirty-five minutes, hitched to a heavy cart, in which were Miss Dillon, and a groom, besides saddles and rugs. Imam returned by another route to Charlbury, the same day, thirty-three miles, in three hours and five minutes.

A notion of the service a good Arab can perform may be gathered from the record of Imam's doings in the eight days beginning November 11, 1894:

Photograph by Schreiber

IMAMZADA

Imamzada, b. h., 1891

Bred by the Hon. Miss E. Dillon, England

KESIA II, b. m.
Foaled property of
Hon. Henry Chaplin.

IMAM, b. h.
Bred by Miss Dillon,
England.

HUDUD, SEGLAWI EL ABD.
Desert bred.

*KESIA, a Keheilet of Nowak.
Desert bred. Brought from
Arabia by Maj. R. D. Upton
for Hon. Henry Chaplin,
England.

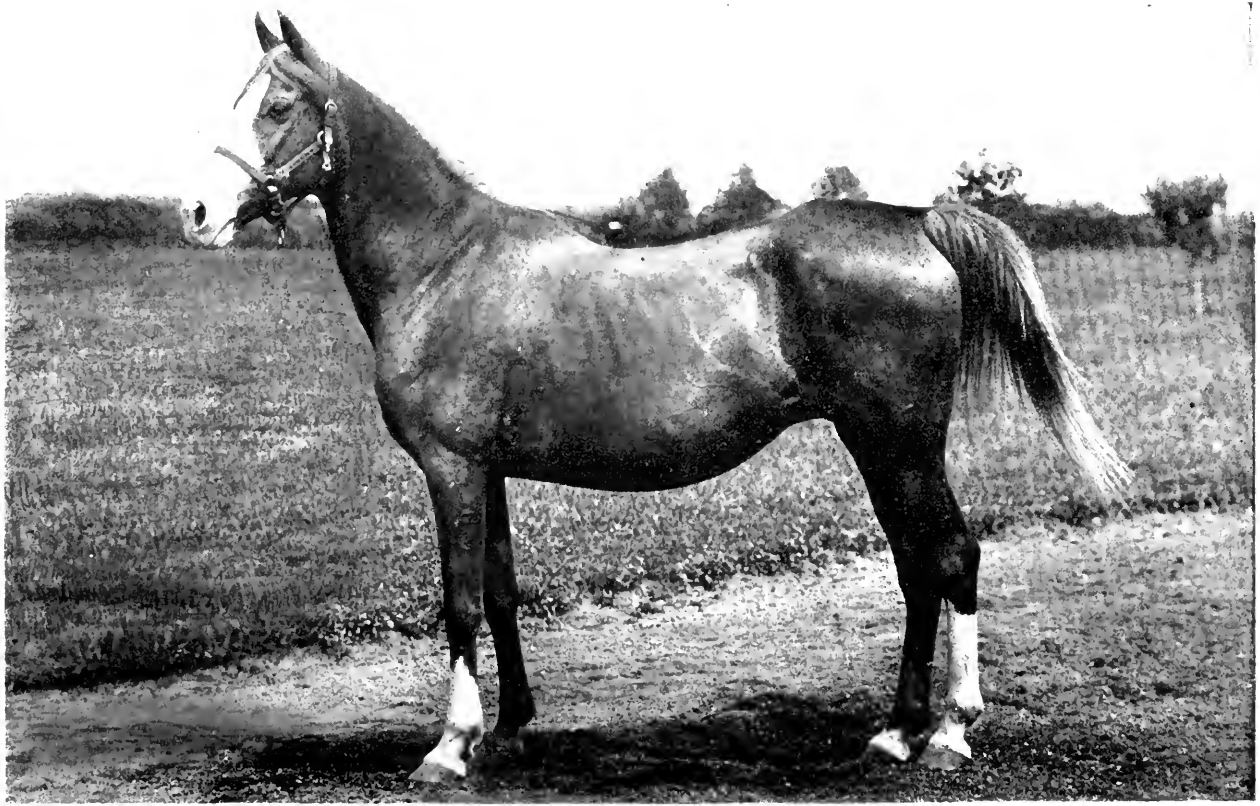
ELEMIR, b. h. Desert bred.
Brought from Arabia by
Hon. Miss Dillon.

ISHTAR, wh. m. Desert bred.
Brought from Arabia by W.
S. Blunt.

* Pedigree of Kesia as given by R. D. Upton's "Gleanings from the Desert of Arabia," p. 387.

4. Breed—a Keheilet of Nowak.
Her color, bay (red).
Breed of her sire—Dabeh Nowak.
In foal by the hudud Seglawi al Abd.
His tribe, *i. e.* the tribe of the horse, Ruallah Anazah.
17th Jammaz, (July) of the Christian year 1875.
The testifier of this writing is the Shaykh.
SULEYMAN IBN MIRSHED.

Seal of Ibn [ ] Suleyman Mirshed



ROSE OF SHARON

Saturday—Carried Edwards (Miss Dillon's Stud Groom) hunting, rider thirteen stone (182 lbs.)

Monday—Ridden to hounds to pilot Miss Roberts (daughter of Gen. Lord Roberts); out seven hours, with plenty of galloping and jumping.

Tuesday—Fourteen miles in harness at a fast pace.

Thursday—Thirty miles in harness.

Friday—harness again.

Saturday—Sixteen miles in harness.

At the outbreak of war in South Africa, Imam went as a charger. He was the only horse on the ship that stood the 6,000 mile voyage without apparent injury, and he served with distinction throughout the whole war.

In October 1905 there came also the famous old mare Rose of Sharon, a chestnut, foaled in 1885, her sire Hadban, dam Rodania, a Keheilet Ajuz of Ibn Rodan's strain, whose romantic history is mentioned in connection with the mares at Crabbet Park.

Offspring of Rose of Sharon.

1890, ch. h. Rafyk, by Azrak.
1891, ch. h. Rasham, by Azrak.
1892, ch. h. Ridaa by Merzuk.
1894, ch. m. Rishmeh, by Shahwan.
1894, ch. m Rotuba, by Ahmar.

1898, ch. m. Rayyana, by Ahmar.
1899, ch. m. Rebekdar, by Mesaoud.
1900, ch. h. Ras el Jeyr, by Mesaoud.
1901, ch. h. Rijin, by Mahruss.
1902, ch. m. Rumeliya, by Rejeb.
1906, ch. h. Rodam, by Harb, son of the "broken-legged mare."

The death of Raksh left no animal in America of the Ras el Fedawi family, and the only place where it was known to exist was in Miss Dillon's two old mares Raschida (24 yrs. old) and Rommia (19 yrs.). Rommia had failed to produce a foal for ten years. Raschida had by her side a beautiful bay filly by Hauran, and Miss Dillon also had a yearling daughter of Raschida (foal of 1904) by Imamzada. After much persuasion these were both secured, and safely reached America in October 1905. Raschina's breeding has been mentioned, also that of Imamzada. Hauran is a son of Hagar, his sire Jezail a son of Jedrania. The combination of blood in the younger filly, therefore, is not less choice than that of the older. They

Photograph by Schreiber

RUMELIYA

Dam—Rose of Sharon, daughter of Rodania
Sire—Rejeb, son of Rosemary (also a daughter of Rodania) and Mesaoud

both unite the choicest strains of Major Upton's importations, with the earlier of the Blunts, and are believed to be the only animals in America of the Ras al Fedawi family.

In 1906 three more mares came from Crabbett Park, (1) Rumeliya, 4 years, a daughter of Rose of Sharon, her sire Rejeb, son of Rosemary and Mesaoud—in foal by Astraled, son of Queen of Sheba (Beteyan's mare); (2) Rosetta, 4 years—a daughter of Rosemary and Mesaoud—also in foal by Astraled; and (3) Antika, 4 years —daughter of Asfura, and grand-daughter of Queen of Sheba—in foal by Harb, son of Bint Helwa (the broken-legged mare) and Mesaoud. These three, combining the choicest strains of blood that ever left Arabia, and joining the same stud where are owned the Rose of Sharon and two of Raschida's daughters, must prove a valuable addition to the Arabs in America.

CHAPTER VI

Some Last Words

NO PERSON who reads the books from which much of the information conveyed in these pages has been obtained can fail to be impressed with the idea that the blood of Keheilet Ajuz is a preponderating influence in the best Arab horses. The animals possessed of this blood are not a separate breed among Arabs—all pure Arabs are of one breed. But, as we know of the old Morgans in America, there were separate families, for example, Woodburys, Giffords, Bulrushes, and all were Morgans, so in Arab horses there is a choice; and of them all the descendants of Keheilet Ajuz are the first. Upton says in "Gleanings From the Desert" (p. 320):

"It appears to me that although there are numerous offshoots from the Keheilet

Ajuz, each with a specific name, there is still a main line or strain of descent carried on of Keheilet Ajuz without any distinguishing name, and that the name Keheilet Ajuz is sufficient to mark any such horse or mare."

He also explodes the tradition that mares are not to be had of the Arabs, and makes evident the fact that if a man knows what he wants, and has the money to pay the price; he can get it, or could at the time of his visits (p. p. 365-6).

"Before leaving this portion of the subject, it is convenient to allude to an assertion which has been made, and so oft repeated that it has been accepted as an established fact—that it is impossible to obtain an Arabian mare; that the Arabs will not part with a mare; that they will sell horses, but nothing will tempt them to part with a mare. The least informed on the subject of Arabians will tell you this as glibly and with as much assurance as if he had been brought up in the desert. One certainly announced that there was a law forbidding the export of an Arabian mare: Now, I

Photograph by Schreiber

ROSETTA, 4 YEARS

Dam—Rosemary, daughter of Rodania
Sire—Mesaoud

can assure my readers that it is not by any means impossible to obtain a genuine Arab mare. We visited the most exclusive of all Badaween tribes and never heard of such a law. If any law did exist, it would be against selling, not exporting; but we never heard of such a thing in the desert. I can assure my readers that among the genuine Badaween of the Arabian desert we found no prejudice against parting with or selling a mare. Difficulty there certainly is to induce such people as the Anazah to sell either horses or mares, for they do not traffic in horses; but if there be any difference, you might get a good mare with less trouble than a good horse.

"I have the best of possible authority for refuting the statement that mares are not to be got, for mares were not infrequently offered to us, and among the Anazah (not the wandering people of Erack) we obtained both mares and horses, and the former without more difficulty than the latter."

The idea has also been given currency that Manakhi Hedruj was a strain so rare as to be seldom seen in these days,

was no longer to be had even for large sums of money, and that they are always chestnuts, of a size so much above the other Arab families that these others are merely "pony Arabs."

Upton says of them (Gleanings p. 321):

"The Manakhi appeared to us a favourite strain, for both horses and mares of this family are to be found in most tribes of the Badaween; and we thought, with the exception of Keheilet Ajuz, there were more horses and mares among the Anazah, certainly among the Sabäah, of the Manakhi family than any other."

The Blunts, four years after Upton, had no difficulty in securing several animals of the Manakhi family, which they brought with them to the Crabbet Arabian Stud. Of their colour and size Upton remarks (Gleanings p. 321):

"There was a nice clean-made, lengthy, useful, and racing-like *dark grey* three year old filly of the Manakhi Hedruj family which belonged to Shaykh Jedäan

ibn Mahaid. There were four mares of Suleiman ibn Mirshid picketed in front of his tent, the best of which he considered to be the *bluish-grey* (Azzrak) mare, four or five years old. She was also of the Manakhi Hedruj family, and stood *fourteen hands, three inches high.*"

Speaking of colour of Arab horses he says (p. 341):

"As to colour, I do not pretend to restrict it; but among the Anazah bay appeared to us the most general, and, I think is the favourite colour among the Arabs; chestnuts and greys are less numerous, and together would not equal the number of those of a bay colour."

Finally, the question seems pertinent—Why, if Arab horses are so valuable, their value so well known, and they can be procured, have they not become more widely distributed?

Various answers, all good, may be given to this question. In the first place the average horseman has come to believe their qualities and reputation to be

figments of the imagination, like the Arabian Nights tales, and having similar origin. He has never seen one of these wonderful horses, and none of his friends have seen one. Therefore, the horse as he is represented does not exist. Again, even if he becomes convinced there is such a horse he does not know where to look for him, does not feel certain he can secure the genuine article if he parts with his good money to obtain one, and if he does find what he becomes convinced is what he wants the price is sure to be a stiff one. The fact is the whole business involves the question of supply and demand, which is the key to all economic calculations.

From this time forward it will pay less and less to breed anything but the best horses, and those which will yield the safest return will be such as will be best adapted for use under the saddle, either for pleasure or as cavalry mounts. In either of those forms of utility no horse that ever lived can compare with one of

Arab blood, and the supply of animals of that kind is extremely limited. The people possessing them, whether the Bedouins or those who have bought from them, have never had an over supply.

A reason for this is perhaps to be found in one statement of conditions for which Mr. Wilfrid Blunt is authority namely: that the pure Arab is not a prolific breeding animal. He thinks one cause for this may be his intense inbreeding. Inbreeding is the only way to secure fixity of type in any form of animal life; but the penalty carried with it is limitation of the reproductive tendency. Mr. Blunt informed one inquirer that if fifteen mares out of twenty-five produced offspring each year at Crabbett Park, he felt satisfied.

The tendency of this condition of affairs is to make the supply of pure Arabs always short, and the price high. A careful study of the lists presented to the readers of this book, however, will show that certain mares have been con-

sistent and uniform producers of numerous and valuable offspring. By acquiring, therefore, from breeders of reputation, animals whose history has been so well defined as to admit them into authoritative records such as Weatherbey's General Stud Book, and the American Jockey Club Stud Book, selecting carefully among them such as are of the choicest strains and those coming from long lived and prolific families—for such are certainly to be had—it is possible to secure the means of breeding horses that shall be both a pleasure and a profit to the breeder.

FINIS

SPENCER BORDEN

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